



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Current Situation in Gulf

AU1312112590 Zagreb VJESNIK (Panorama Subotom supplement) in Serbo-Croatian 8 Dec 90 pp 8, 9

[“Exclusive” interview with Yasir ‘Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by Hido Biscovic and Zlatko Dizdarevic in Tunisia; date not given: “We Are Nearing a Catastrophe”—first paragraph is VJESNIK introduction]

[Text] Any attempt to objectively clarify all aspects of the crisis in the Gulf and the present situation in the Middle East generally and inevitably leads to the Palestinians. Since their issue has been at the center of all Middle Eastern imbroglios, and particularly since media and political-analytical attention seems to have been completely transferred from the West Bank to the Gulf and from the intifadah to a possible military conflict between the West and Saddam, the question inevitably arises of what the Palestinian assessment is of the present situation. In his Tunisian political headquarters, the Palestinian leader, Yasir ‘Arafat, does not conceal his definite bitterness and disappointment—most hope has disappeared for a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue, after he had done everything that he could toward a peace conference. Two years of political work have not produced results, negotiations have been interrupted, and the outbreak of the Gulf crisis seems to have once again pushed the Palestinian question to the sidelines. Moreover, ideas about a possible solution by linking the Gulf and the Palestinian-Israeli quarrel have not at the moment had a favorable reception. What then does the undoubted expert on political events think about the situation in the Gulf and where does he see the causes of the crisis which perhaps go unnoticed because of the “global consensus” and the media campaign?

[VJESNIK] In the middle of these dramatic events we recall how, during our last visit here in Tunisia in January of this year, you warned that the world was heading for a great explosion if it did not realize the untenability of the situation in the Middle East. As you see, the explosion has happened and it has been shown that you were right.

I Was Continually Giving Warnings

[‘Arafat] Do not forget that I was continually warning about the constant possibility of an escalation in this region. Most specifically, last April I pointed out two possible explosive points: On the one hand this involved increased U.S.-Israeli threats to Iraq and the Palestinians in southern Lebanon, and on the other the mass settlement of Jews into our occupied Palestine—a problem that I was constantly pointing out and to which I was trying to attract the world’s attention because it involved a move with unpredictable consequences. I also said that the Arab summit in Baghdad in March this year should be a summit to straighten things out. Anyway, I will give

you the letter the Americans sent us at that time through the Arab League. This is the dangerous letter that no one has wanted to talk about. I will give you a copy; go ahead and publish it if you wish. In this letter they openly announce that they will increase their presence in the Gulf and warned the Arabs that they will not tolerate any resistance to their presence. When I spoke about this on 17 May, two lines concerning the U.S. intentions were already apparent among the Arabs. One line approved of their presence and the other did not.

Another issue was the question of Israel and its expansion. The letter itself was a classic ultimatum. They issued a metal coin—here, I will give you one—with a sketch on it of the map of Israel as they see it. This Israel contains half of Iraq, half of Syria, the whole of Lebanon, Jordan, the whole of Palestine, a part of Saudi Arabia, and a good part of Sinai. They have not forsaken this dream. When I left Beirut in 1982, I said that the storm that had overtaken that city would not stop. The storm at that point had one center, one “eye” as we would say: Palestine. Today that storm has two eyes—one in the Gulf and the other in Palestine.

[VJESNIK] One gets the impression, however, that when it comes to the Gulf crisis most of the international public even today put the consequences in the foreground, neglecting the causes.

[‘Arafat] Do I have to remind you that the same thing happened on the eve of the First and Second World Wars. Is this not also happening today? The whole world, East and West, met in Paris to end the third World War—this time the cold war—and at the same time ignited a new hot war in the Middle East which will not be limited only to this region. This war, if it breaks out, will unavoidably involve the whole world.

[VJESNIK] Following this analysis, what are the main motives?

[‘Arafat] Primarily the recognition that after the conclusion of the cold war and the new divisions in the world, the economy plays the main role. Germany united, thus becoming a superpower, perhaps even the primary economic force in the world. Japan has also achieved the strength of a superpower, and now we have a united Europe with all the elements of a superpower. The United States is therefore now aspiring to take control of the world’s sources of oil in order to acquire influence and domination over the new superpowers. Just recall what Bush said about 10 days ago: “We did not come because of a principle, we came because of economic security.” He also wrote in NEWSWEEK: “Economic security is equal to national security.” Unfortunately, a large part of the world has yielded to this American dictate, and it listens well. Even the Americans’ presence in the Gulf today is financed by other people’s money. All this is leading to a war in which there will be no victor. This leads to annihilation. They are not, however, concerned about the price as long

as their economy experiences a boom and prosperity at the expense of others, particularly if all others are economically weakened.

This Is an Arab Problem

[VJESNIK] Regardless of how we view matters, and regardless of whether this is the real background to the Gulf crisis, I nevertheless have to agree that there is a concrete reason that led the Americans to the Gulf. Iraq's aggression against Kuwait is an undeniable fact.

[Arafat] I will give you this reply—Israel has occupied Arab territories for 43 years! Why did they not launch their armadas in this case too? Syria entered Lebanon 15 years ago, and what happened? It was conducting a war against Lebanon until a few weeks ago. Why did they not send their ships when the Turks occupied Cyprus, or when we were surrounded in Beirut on all sides along with the Lebanese? What about their occupation of Panama and Grenada? Why was an armada not sent when the Soviets entered Afghanistan?

[VJESNIK] It emerges from such a stand that you think that the Americans are now making use of the general climate and the principles that the international community advocated in Paris as a cover for their interests.

[Arafat] I believe that this is an Arab problem. I know that this is not the first time that we have faced some Arab problems, and I know that we have resolved some of these internal Arab conflicts by ourselves. The Palestinian-Syrian conflict was resolved, then the Libyan-Egyptian conflict, and the Lebanese-Syrian conflict was also resolved just like the Moroccan-Algerian one. You also remember the clash between the two Yemens, while the two Yemens existed. Who now remembers the conflict between the Emirates and Saudi Arabia, and it was not a minor one? Yet this was also resolved. We Arabs obviously have problems. These are not few in number and they can be serious, but we will resolve them by ourselves.

[VJESNIK] Well, as we speak the United Nations Security Council is just about to adopt a resolution which in practical terms approves military intervention. The conviction has been created throughout the world that such a denouement is inevitable even if the resolution is interpreted as the last means of exerting political pressure. Do you also share this belief?

[Arafat] Unfortunately I do. I believe that there will be military intervention. What the Security Council is doing amounts to an ultimatum to Iraq. I say again, unfortunately. In my opinion, this is very risky.

[VJESNIK] Are you following the domestic American debate and the conflict of arguments "for" and "against" the United States' entering a war? Do you get the impression of a strengthening of the forces that do not see any great profit, or even excessive risks, from a

possible military victory? Henry Kissinger, the well-known creator of U.S. strategy on the Middle East, has been convincingly justifying his opinion in this respect.

Americans Are Hasty

[Arafat] Something paradoxical is happening, in fact. When the Bush administration came up against resistance at home, it began to make use of the international climate as a form of pressure on the domestic American scene against its own "doves." As far as Kissinger is concerned, matters are clear. He is today warning Americans of the danger of embarking on a military adventure because he knows that such a war would be fatal for Israel—not because he fears for the United States but because he is scared for Israel. Many people have perceived that Israel will pay the price of this future war due to two factors: First, because of its strategic agreement on friendship, that is to say because of the obligation regarding mutual defense; and second, Israel cannot remain secure considering the weapons that will be used extensively throughout this region.

[VJESNIK] Considering what the crisis has already caused, do you nevertheless believe that there is a bloodless solution? And what kind of solution?

[Arafat] In my opinion, an Arab solution under international auspices. Our initiative, which resulted from our stands, has been explained and is well known. It is summed up in six points. Here, take a copy of this text.

[VJESNIK] The essence of the analysis seems to consist of a quite simple question: Was the United States too quick in sending troops to the Gulf and thus got into a situation which is no longer easy to get out of? Or in other words, did Washington perhaps delay at first in reacting and then too quickly go too far, failing to create room for maneuver for other solutions?

[Arafat] Yes. It really is incomprehensible how one superpower can behave so hastily. They did not use to behave like this: Do you remember how it was with the shah in Iran, Marcos, and Duvalier? How did they behave toward these great friends of theirs? They did not lift a finger.

[VJESNIK] The impression is that Europe has also been changing its stand regarding the whole problem in the last few weeks and has been seeking ways out of the position that it has been dragged into by the action of the United States. Do your contacts with European leaders back up these suppositions?

[Arafat] Everything that Mitterrand, Kohl, and Gorbachev have been saying in the last few days, and particularly what was said at the news conference given by Mitterrand and Gorbachev, reflects this "hot-cold" situation in Europe.

[VJESNIK] If we have so far mainly spoken about the United States' attitude to this crisis, we cannot avoid the obvious responsibility of Iraq. How do you see this?

[Arafat] Iraq has put forward a solution which involves putting all Middle East issues on the table, from the Gulf to Lebanon, as well as an agreement on a unified oil policy, in order to preserve international economic stability.

[VJESNIK] Yes, but it is well known that the United States does not in fact want this linkage of all issues in the Middle East.

[Arafat] Definitely not. This is because they do not want to create conditions for these problems to be resolved since they want the problem of the Middle East to remain constantly topical, to flare up here and there. Therefore they want peace for Europe and the United States, but war for the peoples here. How else would the war industry function in the future?

[VJESNIK] When did you last meet with Saddam Husayn and what were your impressions?

[Arafat] A few days ago, when I was with Saddam Husayn, it seemed to me that the chances of peace were great. What the Americans have prepared through the Security Council, however... this is some kind of declaration of war. This is an ultimatum. Really, there is the danger of the Middle East's exploding, not only in the Gulf but on all sides. If Israel is in this war—and it certainly will be—we will fight against it as well as against the Americans. They must know that not one single Arab soldier—neither Egyptian, nor Syrian, nor Saudi—will agree to be in the same trench as Israeli soldiers. This is the reality.

[VJESNIK] So in practical terms, if war broke out, this would lead to the collapse of a large number of the existing Arab regimes.

[Arafat] There is no doubt about it. No matter what the outcome of the war, the Arab order as a whole will collapse.

Oil Is the Key to Everything

[VJESNIK] In previous situations, and there have been many, we have never been able to avoid the question of the role of the Soviet Union as regards the problems in the Middle East. This question is today obviously being raised in an essentially different light. Nevertheless, how do you view Gorbachev's role in the international consensus that has been established concerning the Gulf?

[Arafat] Gorbachev has given his support to the Americans for nothing. He should have paid more attention to Soviet interests both globally and as regards this issue, even viewing things solely from the point of view of the Soviet Union. It is not in their interest to have the Americans dominate this region, just as this interest does not exist from the point of view of the fate of Europe. Even when it came to the oil business, they had to take account of the fact that other countries export oil in the world. I repeat, oil is the key to everything. However, occupied holy places in the Arab world are much more expensive. I mean Muslim and Christian holy places.

These holy places remain the most important human heritage. They are more expensive than oil, and our blood is more expensive than oil. Everything that is happening shows up the double standards in international law and international life. This is in fact discrimination. Does this mean that this world should only exist for the rich? What about the poor?

[VJESNIK] In your opinion, does this definitely mean that there is no solution to the specific problem in the Gulf without a global solution to the Middle East situation?

[Arafat] Yes. This is what I was saying at the beginning. This is a storm with two eyes, one in the Gulf and the other in Palestine.

[VJESNIK] It is well known that the Palestinians end up, either directly or indirectly, being the greatest victims in all Middle Eastern conflicts. What is happening now with you? We ask this because the idea has been created that you have aligned yourselves with Baghdad, which could of course have the effect of weakening the international public's support for the Palestinian matter. As you know, these trends have been present even on the part of the Yugoslav press. How do you view this fact?

[Arafat] We are the greatest losers even now. Our people in Kuwait were the richest. The total losses of the Palestinian colony in Kuwait amounted to \$8.5 billion. Our people had almost \$3 billion in the banks there alone. Look what happened. The U.S.-European committee discussed, and to a considerable extent has already paid, compensation to the whole world for the money lost in Kuwait, but the Palestinians did not receive anything. What is this meant to be? A punishment for the Palestinians? Where are the principles here? Are they not ashamed of this? Or do they really only want to ignite a new explosion? Viewed in the long term, perhaps there is cause for optimism. In the shorter term, the situation is exceptionally difficult. It seems that we have definitely come closer to a war which will leave behind nothing but catastrophe. Both Asia and Europe will feel the repercussions. In order for people to come to their senses, it is necessary for a lot of effort to be made throughout the world. But there is no sense. Look at the Security Council—what is its duty? To foment war or to seek peaceful solutions? I cannot accept this. As regards the solution, it is very strange that, for example, it is being demanded of the Palestinians that they talk with the Israelis while they are occupying the Palestinians' country, but at the same time we are not being allowed to ask that Arabs look for a solution among themselves for the new problem in the Gulf. So one can have negotiations among enemies but not among Arabs. What do they want? That I reject one occupation but accept another, or something like this? I cannot accept a foreign presence in this region. I know that they are literally punishing the Palestinians because of this, but I will not sell my opinion for any sum of money. I could easily say that I support the Saudis or the Americans. You know, however, that I have fought for principles, and I will not betray them. The problem of Kuwait can be resolved in

precisely this framework of principles, among ourselves—the Arabs. They are not allowing us to do so because they are afraid that their interests will be undermined.

[VJESNIK] Nevertheless, these principles have now been betrayed by one Arab leader, Saddam Husayn.

[Arafat] Why did no one say that Bush had betrayed principles when he attacked Panama? Because this involved the argument of force. Only arguments of force are valid for them. There are no principles here.

UK Thanks 'Arafat for Help in Hostage Release

LD1112202990 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The brother director general of the PLO Political Department has had a meeting with the British ambassador in Tunis, who has conveyed the British Government's gratitude to the brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the State of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, for his efforts to secure permission for British and other foreign nationals to travel from Kuwait and Iraq to their countries.

PLO Excluded From Tehran Islamic Conference

LD1212123690 *London KUNA in Arabic* 1133 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Amman, 12 Dec—The PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was ignored by an enlarged Islamic conference held in Tehran last week, it was stated here today.

Shaykh Ya'qub Qirsh, member of the Jordanian National Assembly, who belongs to the Islamic current and attended the conference that was held to discuss the Palestine question, said in a statement published today by the Jordanian newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B that in their speeches a number of participants in the conference severely criticized PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He added that the criticism went to the extent of revilement.

Ya'qub Qirsh added that the conference was convened by the Iranian Foreign Ministry and seems to have been organized in conjunction with the Palestinian forces that are not members of the PLO. He added that no invitations were issued to the PLO leaders or to Palestine National Council Chairman Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

Deputy Qirsh said that the final communique on the work of the conference made no reference to the need to preserve the Palestinian people's camps in Lebanon or to maintain the Palestinian revolutionaries in southern Lebanon.

An Islamic delegation comprising a number of Jordanian legislators has participated in the conference.

Islamists Called 'Terrorists' Who 'Serve Israel'

JN1212111490 *Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic*
0600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Palestinian poet Mahmud Darwish, PLO Executive Committee member, has accused some Islamists of serving Israel by politicizing Islam and objecting to the coexistence of Arabs and Jews in an independent Palestinian state. Darwish described some Islamist shaykhs as terrorists and said that the Muslim fanatics are opposed to democracy, which they understand to be a right they exercise to liquidate others.

Mahmud Darwish said that the Koran is a religious and not a political authority and those who believe otherwise serve Israel, which is using Islamic fundamentalism as a pretext to evade international legitimacy.

Darwish accused those who level harsh criticism against him—such as the Islamist members of the National Assembly in Jordan, some Gulf states including Kuwait, as well as the United States—of financing some Islamic groups in order to harm the PLO.

Abu-Sharif Doubts Bush's Credibility on Gulf

LD0712156790 *Rabat MAP in English* 1307 GMT
7 Dec 90

[Text] Casablanca, Dec. 7 (MAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif special adviser to the Palestinian president expressed doubts over the credibility of Bush's move and warned against the bias of Washington.

In an interview run by the Moroccan magazine 'LE LIBERAL', the Palestinian official said Washington's partiality will make the repressed people in the Middle East lose faith in the American policy and resort to violence to recover their rights and restore justice.

Abu-Sharif considered the Moroccan sovereign's proposal to convene an Arab exceptional summit on the Gulf crisis as the most adequate solution to spare the region a disastrous war.

He called for the holding of an international conference based on international legitimacy to end all colonisations, conclude a treaty on Mideast issues and eliminate all conventional and mass destruction weapons in the region.

Concerning the Gulf crisis Abu-Sharif said a commission must be set up to supervise the replacement of Iraqi and foreign troops stationed in the Gulf by an Arab army. He said a commission of Arab leaders will define the borders between Iraq and Kuwait while another one will examine the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Two other commissions will discuss the modalities of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

Once the commissions have fulfilled their task, a plan must be set forth to help the poor countries of the region promote their economy with the assistance of the richest countries of the world.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Ministerial Meeting Opens in Vienna

LD1212144590 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 12, IRNA—The 88th OPEC ministerial meeting opened here Wednesday to decide on measures the organization should take after the Persian Gulf crisis is over.

OPEC President Sadek Boussena was reinstated in his post for another term. A resolution to be issued at the end of the current session is to announce the members' commitment to the decisions approved by the organization during its previous session.

During the 87th meet, held before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries set a minimum basket price of 21 dollars per barrel and a total production ceiling of 22.5m barrels per day.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said in remarks Tuesday that all OPEC ministers would underline the need for return to the quotas set during the 87th OPEC meeting after the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion is settled.

Asked by reporters whether Iran would return to its previous quota, Aqazadeh replied "this issue should be discussed after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis."

The oil minister also reiterated Iran's call for stabilization of the oil price at 21 dollars per barrel as decided in the previous session.

The Venezuelan oil minister called for a minimum price of 21 to 25 dollars per barrel to be set by OPEC in the future.

Before the opening of the meeting, the Indonesian oil minister predicted that with regards to the situation in the Persian Gulf it would be impossible to set a definite output ceiling.

He said Indonesia's production was now a little higher than its OPEC-decreed quota and was expected to reach 1.5 million to 1.6 million bpd by the end of December.

However, the Indonesian minister underlined the need for OPEC member states to return to their previous output quotas after the crisis in the Persian Gulf was over.

Prices Unlikely Affected

LD1212103190 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 12, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh currently here for the 88th OPEC ordinary session said that oversupply of heavy crude in the market will be discussed in the session.

Speaking to reporters Aqazadeh who arrived here Tuesday confirmed that Iran had a floating oil stocks, but did not specify its quantity.

In terms of floating stocks, Iran and Saudi Arabia are top among the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), though with entirely different objectives. The Saudis plan to use it as a means to halt oil price hikes in case of a military conflict in the region. However, in case of Iran, it is a way of ensuring continued export of oil and inflow of hard currency, if the region becomes insecure.

The OPEC ministerial monitoring committee which embodies all the 13 members, convened here Tuesday afternoon to finalize preparations for the conference to start Wednesday.

The conference and its decisions are unlikely to effect the oil market and prices.

The ministers are to review the market situation and oil prices, but the main topic in their private talks will be measures to be taken after the settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Given the existing large oil stocks in the market, plunge of oil prices to as low as dlr 13-15 per barrel can be expected, if the current Persian Gulf crisis is to end peacefully.

Several OPEC members including Iran hope that the current session will adopt decisions on lowering the OPEC oil supply.

Iran is in favor of a production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels per day, Aqazadeh told reporters before the monitoring session started.

Presently, Iran's daily production stands at 3.6 million barrels per day, the minister added.

Quotas After Gulf Crisis

AU1312100090 Paris AFP in English-0957 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Vienna, Dec 13 (AFP)—OPEC has decided to continue producing oil freely to replace embargoed Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil but has undertaken to re-introduce production quotas when the Gulf crisis ends, the Nigerian and Saudi Arabia oil ministers said at the end of a conference here on Thursday.

Saudi Arabian minister Hisham Nazir said that the August agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) remained in place. This agreement authorised OPEC members to exceed their OPEC production ceilings in order to make good a supply shortfall caused by a United Nations embargo against Iraq for invading Kuwait.

Under that agreement, OPEC members agreed to resume the application of quotas as soon as the crisis was brought to an end.

The Nigerian minister Jibril Aminu said that the OPEC ministers would next meet in March.

He said that he was very pleased with the agreement which should send an important signal to the market and show that OPEC was united and capable of organising itself and of continuing to supply the market with oil.

OPEC president Sadek Boussena was expected to give a press conference later in the morning.

Agree To Maintain Output

*LD1312100790 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT
13 Dec 90*

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 13, IRNA—Oil ministers of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have agreed to maintain the present production level of the organization as long as the Persian Gulf crisis continues, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir said here Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told reporters that the OPEC ministers have agreed to

reinstate the production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels per day, production quotas of the members and the minimum price decided in the 87th session of the organization, as soon as the Persian Gulf crisis is over.

Oil ministers of the 13-member organization are here for the 88th ordinary session. They held a three and a half hour meeting behind the closed doors Wednesday night. The talks are to resume Thursday morning before holding of the final session.

Informed sources here said that the ministers have also agreed with convening of the ministerial monitoring committee next march which is likely to be turned into an extraordinary ministerial session.

The sources added that OPEC members are expected to nominate their candidates for post of secretary general for the next term by March. The extraordinary session, if convened in March, will elect the new secretary general and in the absence of a general consent on a single candidate, the present secretary general will likely continue to serve next term.

Algeria

Prime Minister Says Reforms Will Continue

LD1212111890 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] "The possibility of changing the government is not envisaged for the time being," Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, told an interview to the daily "EL WATAN."

Moreover, Hamrouche underlined that the vote of confidence of the People's National Assembly his government has benefited from "is a mandate to continue the reforms, all the reforms and go to the end of the logic they imply, without hesitation." "This vote of confidence frees the government from any missions. This is also a sign aimed at political parties and citizens so that they mobilize themselves through action," the head of government declared.

"This vote is also aimed to foreigners to show that the government in power, benefits from the total confidence of the People's National Assembly and a wide social basis in the country" Hamrouche pointed out in the interview.

Concerning the forthcoming legislative elections, the head of government said "we are going to take all the necessary measures as we promised in the past, to create an atmosphere of serenity and social peace so as to enable citizens to choose their representatives and the program which they want in all freedom and consciousness."

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues

NC1312145790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak met yesterday with senior radio and television officials. The meeting was held following the inauguration of the Egyptian satellite channel and after the president gave his instructions for transmission to begin.

During the three-hour meeting with media officials, President Mubarak reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and Egypt's principled role in defending the Kuwaiti people against the Iraqi aggression.

He also spoke about the domestic situation and the prospects for carrying out a major or limited cabinet reshuffle in accordance with the requirements of national action and the requirements of the current stage.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak answered numerous questions about the Gulf crisis brought on by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He explained the details of Egypt's contacts with other Arab and international parties since the crisis began, and reviewed in detail Egyptian and other efforts to contain

the crisis and find a peaceful solution, noting that Iraq had rejected all these efforts.

Referring to the recent U.S. initiative which U.S. President Bush proposed in the wake of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 678, President Mubarak said that Egypt supports every peaceful solution that is in accordance with the UN resolutions calling for an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. President Mubarak asserted that no one has the right to impose any conditions on Kuwait or to compel it to make concessions.

President Mubarak said the Egyptian stance on Arab issues is a principled one; this is very clear with regard to the Gulf crisis. He declared that had this aggression been directed against another Arab country, Egypt would have shouldered its responsibilities with the same strength and faith as it did in the case of Kuwait.

President Mubarak emphasized Egypt's principled stand on the Palestinian cause, saying it is a strategic stand which cannot change regardless of any Palestinian excesses at any stage or for any other reason. He explained that such excesses do not affect the essence of the Palestinian cause or Egypt's unchanging support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak answered questions on the domestic situation. On the economy the president noted that the decision by the United States and some Gulf countries to cancel Egypt's military and civilian debts will enhance the Egyptian economy's ability to achieve the desired development, provide new job opportunities for Egyptians, and maintain the current standard of living in light of the continued population increase which makes it necessary for the state to provide basic commodities and services for the public.

On the foreign debt, President Mubarak said that the EC countries are making efforts to write off some of Egypt's debts.

Asked if the appointment [as heard] of [Education Minister] Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur as People's Assembly speaker will lead to a limited cabinet reshuffle, the president noted that there is a republican decree to organize the responsibilities of the ministers and their replacements. He explained that a cabinet reshuffle is possible if it would be in the public interest and that any such reshuffle will be done at the appropriate time.

On the status of the National Democratic Party [NDP] in the coming stage, President Mubarak said that bolstering the NDP's capabilities is being considered in order to bolster the party's success in the recent elections and develop party activity in the future.

In conclusion, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak instructed the media officials to carry out their role in strengthening democracy by encouraging the public to register as voters every December so that the citizens will have a positive attitude toward this national duty.

Mubarak Addresses NDP Legislative Committee

NC1212182590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak asserted that the recent People's Assembly elections were honest, untainted, neutral, and a medal on the chests of all Egyptians. He expressed astonishment at the accusation that the Interior Ministry committed forgeries during the elections and said the direct election system used in the recent voting suits the Egyptian people.

Addressing a meeting of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] legislative committee, President Mubarak referred to the economy and said that Egypt has some economic problems, but its situation is better than many other countries where life is difficult and where there are droughts and famines.

Referring to the Gulf crisis and Egypt's stance on it, President Mubarak affirmed that this stance was clear from the beginning in rejecting the occupation of other countries' territories by force. He said that Egypt condemns the Iraqi invasion and is determined that the Iraqis should withdraw from Kuwait.

According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, President Mubarak noted that the situation in the Gulf is very serious. The president announced: While we are committed to the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait, we are doing our utmost to save the Iraqi people from destruction.

Regarding the domestic situation, President Mubarak urged all state officials to enlighten the public about the benefits of having a small family, saying the population increase is a basic factor in hindering economic and social progress in Egypt.

Answering questions from members of the ruling NDP's legislative committee, President Mubarak referred another time to the Gulf crisis. He called on the Iraqi leadership to leave Kuwait, saying it is not reasonable to involve the Iraqi people in this venture and lead them to destruction without good cause.

President Mubarak called on the sons of the Arab homeland to rise above the level of using invectives and making false allegations. He said: The Arab nation must rise above events. We must fear God in our dealings with our people.

President Mubarak then called on Egyptian women to join the democratic experience and practise their democratic rights by running for and voting in People's Assembly elections. He said women's participation in this field is still below what is needed, and asserted that democracy is not a mere slogan or simply holding symposiums and making speeches, but is basically the people's participation in the decision making process.

Regarding Egypt's stance on the Palestinian issue, the president said Egypt has always done its utmost for the Palestinian people and has succeeded in transforming the issue from a refugee cause to a national one. The president also stated that it is Egypt's fate to shoulder its responsibilities toward the Arab nation and its issues, regardless of any excesses perpetrated against it. He asserted that Egypt always rises above such situations.

Mubarak Inaugurates Satellite Television Channel

NC1212201890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1817 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has inaugurated the Egyptian satellite channel. The channel will transmit daily programs to all the countries of the region from 1000 until the end of transmission of the Egyptian television's first channel.

President Mubarak expressed great satisfaction on this occasion, saying he is one of the happiest people, just like every other Egyptian citizen, to see that we are keeping abreast with the world's technological progress and that we are transmitting our programs via satellite to our sons and brothers in the Arab world and abroad. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak addressed a message to the members of the Egyptian Armed Forces in the Gulf to commemorate the fact that Egyptian television is now reaching them. The president said that when he previously visited the Egyptian troops in Hafar al-Batin in Saudi Arabia and in al-Shariqah in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], he was pained by the fact that they could not receive radio and television broadcasts, and consequently could not clearly hear and see Egypt's news. [passage omitted]

The president instructed the information minister to speed up the implementation of satellite dish installations to transmit television broadcasts via the satellite channel to Libya. The information minister said that the president's instructions will be carried out immediately.

The information minister added that Bahrain has signed an agreement with Egypt to receive Egyptian broadcasts via the new channel and retransmit them on its own channels. He explained that Qatar, large areas in the UAE except al-Shariqah, Kuwait, and the Basrah area of Iraq are now receiving Egyptian television broadcasts via this channel. He added that viewers in al-Dammam and the Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia will also be able to receive the transmission, noting that this is the first stage.

Safwat al-Sharif said that 15 African countries are scheduled to receive Egyptian television broadcasts and noted that the number will later increase to 35 countries. He said that stations will be built there to receive Egyptian broadcasts and retransmit selections from them. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif added that in the future the channel will transmit 24 hours a day; in this way it will be possible to

serve Europe and Africa as well as broadcast news bulletins in these countries' languages. [passage omitted]

Calls Commander in Saudi Arabia

NC1212174790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1718 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with Major General Muhammad Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces in the Hafar al-Batin area [in Saudi Arabia], via the Egyptian satellite channel. On this occasion President Mubarak asked Maj. Gen. Bilal to convey his greetings to the members of the Egyptian forces in the area.

In his telephone conversation President Mubarak also inquired about the reception quality of the television transmission via the new satellite station now that it has started transmitting on this channel. Maj. Gen. Bilal assured the president that the reception was good.

Calls Bahraini Heir

NC1212180490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1738 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation with Bahraini Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah via the Egyptian satellite channel, which he inaugurated today.

During the conversation President Mubarak enquired about the health of Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and conveyed his greetings and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Mubarak Reportedly Suffering 'Liver Disease'

JN1312105090 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
15 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Western diplomatic reports have revealed acute differences within the Egyptian leadership over the Gulf situation and the Egyptian forces' participation in the military buildup against Iraq. The reports said President Mubarak on Friday night ordered the arrest of 10 ranking officers for opposing the dispatch of Egyptian troops to the Gulf. The reports added that the former commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia and a number of his aides were placed under house arrest following their return home.

Last Sunday the Egyptian Council of Ministers discussed the government's Gulf policy. The Egyptian opposition said a heated discussion took place in an extremely tense atmosphere, and that the debate was shelved for another session.

The Council of Ministers listened to a report delivered by Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on Egyptian Gulf policy and the impact of this policy on promoting inter-Arab relations or increasing differences. The Council of Ministers also discussed a report by the

Egyptian defense minister on the Egyptian forces' position in the event of war. The Egyptian minister declined to say whether Egyptian forces will attack Iraq or remain in a defensive position in the case of war. He only said that instructions say our mission is to defend Saudi Arabia against any attack.

In the meantime, Western reports said that President Mubarak has developed a liver disease and unstable blood pressure, and that he was admitted to the hospital more than once over the past few days. A Western diplomat quoted him as saying that he began to feel this sickness following what he termed Saddam's strike against Kuwait. He said the Egyptian forces' presence on the border is only for training and military exercises.

In another development, the Egyptian defense minister met with the commander of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and discussed with him the military developments in the Gulf in the light of the Security Council's resolution sanctioning the use of force against Iraq.

Report, Comment on Syrian Delegation's Visit

'Abd-al-Majid Views Cooperation

NC1212172390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs and a member of the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian higher committee.

They reviewed recent regional developments, chiefly the Gulf crisis. The two ministers affirmed that the two countries' views are identical on the current efforts to reach a settlement of this crisis. They also discussed the increasing Egyptian-Syrian cooperation which is enjoying unlimited support from the presidents of the two fraternal countries.

Syria's Rajjuh Comments

NC1212164290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Yasin Rajjuh, Syrian minister of state for cabinet affairs, has described the meeting of the Egyptian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee as an important step toward promoting and bolstering Egyptian-Syrian relations according to the foundations laid by leaders Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad.

Rajjuh said that the two countries side by side are adopting serious, well-planned steps for establishing long-term cooperation and realizing the integration which would serve the interests of the two countries and the higher interests of the Arab nation. The Syrian minister pointed out that this cooperation will be conducted hand in hand with continuing political exchanges

and consultations between the two leaderships to coordinate their policies toward the area's issues and the future of the joint Arab action.

Minister Rajjuh and the Egyptian minister of tourism today signed a bilateral cooperation agreement in the tourism field.

Syria's Salman Comments

NC1212131190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman emphasized that the frequent Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi meetings are held to find a way to avert the resulting catastrophe for Iraq if a military operation were mounted in the Middle East. He explained that Iraq would be the battlefield and that a disaster would hit the Iraqi economy—a part of the Arab nation's wealth that should be safeguarded.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published Friday [14 December], the Syrian information minister described U.S. President George Bush's initiative to engage in a dialogue with Iraq as the last attempt to find a way out of the Gulf crisis. He said the initiative can be expressed in two ways: as a warning by the international community, and as an attempt by Bush to prove to Americans and the world that he tried to resolve the issue peacefully. He noted the initiative was launched from the position of strength because it came in the wake of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq to liberate Kuwait.

Minister Salman pointed out that during their meeting in Geneva, Presidents George Bush and Hafiz al-Asad agreed to continue their dialogue after they reached an understanding on the Gulf crisis.

Salman said President Bush, upon resolving the Gulf crisis, has promised to work at finding a settlement for the Middle East problem and at compelling Israel to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 by withdrawing from the West Bank, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, particularly since the world is now inclined to resolve regional issues peacefully through UN resolutions.

He noted that Syria deals with the United States as a superpower with influence on the world, adding that the dialogue between Syria and Washington is intended to reiterate the Syrian stand that distinguishes national struggle from terrorism.

Commenting on Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens' assertions that Israel will not withdraw from south Lebanon, Minister Salman said this stand is not new for Israeli politicians who persist in rejecting UN resolutions.

To a question on Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon, Minister Salman emphasized that the Syrian stand on

this matter is very clear and that it is announced repeatedly. He said Syria supported the al-Ta'if agreement, adding that it will certainly not stay in Lebanon if it is not needed. He explained that Syria did not enter Lebanon to annex it, as the Iraqi regime did in Kuwait.

He further stressed that Syrian troops were deployed in Saudi Arabia to defend the kingdom and to tell the Arab citizens that other Arab men are involved in his protection.

On eliminating nuclear and chemical weapons from the region, the Syrian information minister reiterated that his country welcomes President Husni Mubarak's initiative to eliminate all nuclear and chemical weapons, provided that this elimination applies to all the regions' countries, primarily Israel.

On Syrian-Soviet relations, the Syrian minister asserted that the two countries enjoy friendship and integration in several economic fields, adding that they exchange views in order to unite their political stands.

U.S.-Iraqi 'Advance Understanding' Theorized

NC1312084690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0651 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM believes that there are indications of an advance understanding between the United States and Iraq on a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem.

The paper is astonished by Iraq's decision to free the foreign hostages, noting that this decision is a riddle to anyone trying to understand what is happening. It says Iraq did not need to issue this decision now at the time when there is a U.S. proposal to convene meetings with Iraqi officials in Washington and Baghdad.

In an editorial in today's edition headlined "A Confusing Question," the paper asks: Why does Iraq give up this important card so easily when it does not need to right now, and before knowing the direction of the [anticipated] talks? This is part of the riddle, especially because the release of hostages before the situation is clear provides an opportunity for military measures against Iraq.

AL-AHRAM notes that the U.S.-Iraqi meetings will exhaust the Security Council's ultimatum of mid-January, after which there will be freedom to use force if Iraq does not give in.

The paper points out that there are Iraqi endeavors for the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to be held three days before the ultimatum expires. This is another part of the riddle: By that time the foreign hostages, approximately 6,000, will have been evacuated and the U.S. Embassy closed, thus making a decision for war easier if an agreement is not reached.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that all these indications may imply that there is an advance understanding on a peaceful solution through gradual steps that have already begun and that let both parties save face.

'Fair' U.S. Stand on Gulf, Palestinians Urged

NC1312104390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0657 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's provocative statements during his current visit to the United States, and the way the U.S. Administration and Congress officials are pampering Israel, harm the bold U.S. stand on the Gulf crisis and weaken its credibility.

In its editorial today the paper notes that when dealing with the Gulf crisis, Washington talks about confronting any aggression against the freedoms of people and the occupation of their territories by force. When Israel commits heinous crimes against the Palestinian people, however, the U.S. Administration does not even attempt to allow passage of an international resolution condemning the Israeli violations and protecting the Palestinians.

The paper points out that the stand by U.S. President George Bush and his government on the criminal occupation of Kuwait, denouncing it because of what Saddam Husayn's forces are subjecting the Kuwaiti people to, was a good step that revived America's reputation as a supporter of freedom and champion of people and human rights.

The paper asks: Why does the U.S. President not take another step to indicate clearly that the United States still emphasizes its traditions, principles, and high ideals by backing all nations who face oppressive aggression?

The paper explains that nothing more is required than fair and evenhanded treatment from a superpower like the United States, especially after the stand by Bush and his government in leading the international campaign to rescue a small Arab people from the grip of a dictator who believed that he could achieve his malicious goals by force.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that such a stand will gain more respect for the U.S. President and will enhance his credibility, especially if he extends a helping hand to the Palestinian people to enable them to recover their usurped homeland.

U.S. Talks Offer 'Submission to Iraq's Demands'

JN1112214790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
6 Dec 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Taking the Right Path"]

[Text] Until the U.S.-Iraqi talks get underway, Washington will find itself constantly pressured into stressing that it is not meeting with Iraqi officials to negotiate with them but to show that the world is united in its demand

for Iraqi implementation of Security Council resolutions. Apart from this, the U.S. side to the talks will merely listen to the Iraqi side raising whatever points it wishes without any commitment.

But if this is really what is meant by the dialogue, then it is a needless effort. Certainly the latest Security Council resolution alone reflects the unanimous world position, and the timeframe set by the resolution speaks for itself as a final warning to Iraq; it needs no explanation or clarification. Moreover, "listening" to Iraq's views does not require such a high-level exchange; it can be achieved by the lowest-level mediations and figures. Consequently, the bottom line is a boost for Iraq's status, which essentially constitutes some kind of concession or submission to Iraq's demands for a dialogue at a responsible level—something that was unacceptable before "unconditional" Iraqi withdrawal. Accepting talks with Iraq before it embarks on satisfying any unanimously-adopted world demand is submission to one of Iraq's conditions.

Some, like Henry Kissinger, think the U.S. initiative was wrong because it opens the door to other allied countries to hold separate contacts with Iraq. But this assessment is not accurate because these countries have already held such contacts to secure the release of their hostages. This in itself raises the possibility that the U.S.-Iraqi openness might be an attempt by Washington to follow suit and seek the release of its hostages. At least this is perhaps an undeclared objective of the talks, especially since Saddam is apparently anxious to make some gesture toward the United States in an attempt to win over U.S. public opinion and convince it to apply more pressure on the Bush Administration to prevent it from going to war.

At any rate, the U.S. initiative, although appearing well-intentioned, may not find its way easy. It may not only boost Saddam's self-conceit, insistence on demands, and adherence to positions, but also—and perhaps primarily—impose limitations and restrictions on any U.S. moves before the eyes of the waiting world.

People's Assembly Elects Speaker, Deputies

NC1312141090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The People's Assembly elected Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur of the National Democratic Party as assembly speaker today. He received 431 votes—out of a total of 440 valid votes—against nine votes for his rival, Ibrahim Mahmud 'Iyadah of the Socialist Labor Party.

The assembly also elected Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din as deputy speaker representing white collar deputies, and Ahmad Abu-Zayd as deputy speaker for workers and peasants.

Libya**Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at 'Martyrs' Funeral Service***LD1212181190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Report on speech by Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi at a funeral service in Tripoli on 12 December—read by announcer]

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution attended the funeral of the two martyrs, Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd-al-Salam Sahban and Captain al-Arabi-'Abd al-Salam Ramadhan, which took place at al-Hani Martyrs' Cemetery in Tripoli today.

The brother leader of the revolution eulogized the two martyrs who had carried out the order to defend freedom in Chad, and said:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Among the believers are men who were true to their covenant with God—some of them have fulfilled their vow by death, and some are still awaiting, and they have not changed in the least—that God may recompense the truthful ones for their truthfulness, and chastise the hypocrites, if He will, or turn again unto them.

Brothers, man does not die, the revolutionary does not die, the brave do not die, and the hero does not die, even if he is put in the grave. The coward dies, the traitor dies, the renegade dies, and the agent dies, but the brave live on with the glory, honor, and pride they leave behind them and with the prestige they leave for their children, families, and nation.

As for the cowards, they are dead even if they are eating and drinking, walking in the markets, and living in hotels. They are dead because they are without glory, dignity, honor, good reputation, or renown they could leave for their children.

Therefore 'Abd-al-Salam Sahban and his comrades have not died; they will stay alive with the glory and pride which they recorded and left for their children, families, and all of us.

In his funeral oration, the brother leader of the revolution added that if the hand which killed Sahban and his comrade al-Arabi and others was not cut off in Ndjamena then it will be cut off wherever it may be. He said in this respect:

It is not a sad moment but one of pride and glory. We are proud that we have finally triumphed over the enemies and triumphed over the United States, which had turned a neighboring state into a base for aggression against the Libyan people who call for Arab unity and the liberation of Palestine. America was defeated in daylight; its base in Chad was struck and its agents fled like dogs to the four corners of the world.

We are also proud that our sons, like Sahban, al-Arabi, and others, were martyred without causing us, their homeland, or their revolution any disgrace. This is the honorable end which every honorable person wishes for himself. We are proud of the end which Sahban, al-Arabi, and others met. Our forefathers tell us: The dead will not cause you any grief; what causes you grief is being unable to defeat those still alive. We are not grieved by the death of martyrs. But, finally, those who stayed alive, namely the United States, France, the reactionaries, and the enemies of the revolution and the enemies of the nation were denied victory. They were finally defeated and they finally wept—and this is the main thing.

At the end of his funeral oration, the brother leader of the revolution said: We are proud to have sons like Sahban, al-Arabi, and others who will once again be ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of freedom and defeat the enemies. Finally, we tell every African state—and let the news agencies report this—that we will create a new Idriss Deby to wreck the capital of any African state which acts in collusion with imperialism against the revolution.

African Trade Union Conference Opens in Tripoli*LD1212135290 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended at the People's Hall in Tripoli this morning the opening session of the fifth conference of the African Organization of Trade Union Unity. On this occasion, Staff Maj. Jallud made a speech in which he greeted the participants in this conference. He said: Through you, I salute the workers of the vast African continent and at the same time I salute the historic victory of one of the peoples of our continent, namely the Chadian people under the leadership of the popular front led by the brother militant Idriss Deby.

Morocco**Prime Minister Addresses Deputies on Unions***LD1212075990 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 11 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] The House of Deputies this evening held its weekly session, which was devoted to questions and answers, under the chairmanship of House of Deputies Speaker Ahmed Osman and in the presence of Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki and some members of the government.

The session was devoted to issues pertaining to the dialogue between the government and trade unions and vocational bodies, with a view to looking into the demands file; a subject regarding which the majority submitted many questions which, together with Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki's replies, we are going to review in the following report. [passage omitted]

[Begin Laraki recording] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be on the messenger of God. Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: we are discussing at the House of Deputies the course the dialogue with the government has taken, which we have all agreed to call the issue of the hour. [passage omitted]

I can announce as from now that next week, God willing, the government will provide the figures that will persuade everyone that wages will undergo a substantial and clear increase, and that family benefits will also undergo a substantial and encouraging increase. Also, all that which concerns sick leave and leave will be greatly improved. This will be the immediate stage. As for the rest of the demands, we will remain in constant contact with all the bodies concerned with the matter, whether trade unions or employers, to get their views and assess them, and to come up with the solutions on a regular basis every six months at the most, as a maximum estimate.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: I have given a brief review and brief reply to the questions you have asked. I do not want to leave this rostrum before expressing my regret to all trade union organizations which have responded to our request for dialogue and apologize...[changes thought] and like to say that we do not share with them this [word indistinct] the government recognizes the right of strike for all, and the constitution guarantees the right of strike. However, the constitution is an indivisible whole, and while it guarantees the right of strike it also guarantees the right to work, and it guarantees the need to safeguard public security. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Human Rights Council, Media To Cooperate

LD1212220590 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri yesterday presided over a joint meeting of members of the National Union of Journalists and a delegation representing the Human Rights Consultative Council, which included Secretary General (Mohamed Mekou); head of Information and Foreign Liaison (Abdallah Laroui); and some members of the Consultative Council. The meeting was attended by close aides of the minister.

The meeting was devoted to studying ways that will ensure effective coordination between the national media and the Human Rights Consultative Council so that the latter could look into and follow up all that is

written in and outside Morocco on human rights in our country, in order for members of the council to study them and possibly reply to them if need be through varied and coordinated replies.

(Mohamed Mekou) and (Abdallah Laroui) emphasized the role which could be played by the Consultative Council, particularly since our country, by the grace of the noble care of His Majesty King Hassan, attaches great importance to this field. The matter concerns supplying the national press with everything that concerns the activities of the Human Rights Consultative Council so that the national press will be able to inform the Moroccan public of its various activities.

Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri welcomed the proposals made by the two sides and stressed the need for creating such cooperation in view of the important services it would provide for promoting the issue of human rights in Morocco, and for availing the council with all that it needs to carry out its mission fully. The minister appointed (Hassan Rahmouni), a university professor and director of administrative affairs at the Ministry of Information; and Mubarak Driss, from the minister's office, to act in a liaison capacity between the Human Rights Consultative Council and the Interior and Information Ministries regarding this issue.

Tunisia

House of Representatives Approves State Budget

LD1212150390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives this morning continued its debate on the draft state budget for 1991 under the chairmanship of its speaker, Beji Caid Essebsi, and in the presence of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and a number of government ministers. The remaining interpolations by deputies on the government's statement on the draft economic budget and the state's general budget for the new fiscal year were heard. [passage omitted]

The House of Representatives unanimously approved the draft budget of the Presidency of the Republic for 1991 in regard to both expenditure and equipment.

The House then turned to discussion of its budget, hearing a number of interpolations in this regard. The debate will continue in the evening session.

Bahrain

Daily Interviews Prime Minister on Gulf Crisis

NC1212163390 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Manama, Dec 12 (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has strongly backed the January 15 United Nations' ultimatum for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

We have waited enough and this must be the final [word indistinct] said Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah in an exclusive interview with the Bahraini English daily 'GULF DAILY NEWS' published today.

A time has been given and it should be the last and should be an ultimatum because if it gets longer then I think is a danger of it getting still worse than it is now, he said.

The Bahraini premier expressed his hope the Iraqis will withdraw from Kuwait before that time.

Shaykh Khalifah added that if it lasts longer it will not be in the benefit of world peace and definitely not be for the good name of the United Nations Security Council and not good for the world's strong stand against this aggressor.

It will make the position of the aggressor preferred. Shaykh Khalifah said that all options were open to solve this in a peaceful way or in a military way.

The prime minister said that he does not believe in any kind of talking without follow-up action. Since August 2 the Iraqis never fulfilled their promises and I think the world must realise we have had enough, he said.

He said it was vital to get the situation clearly in perspective. No one wants war but he started war. We are willing to do what is best for our countries and for our people, Shaykh Khalifah added.

The prime minister praised the unstinting support by Bahrain for Kuwaitis.

When the first wave came everybody panicked and wondered how to cope. We are now coping beautifully and everybody has rallied round, he said.

Shaykh Khalifah particularly cited individual Bahraini families who had offered to share their homes and possessions. The Kuwaitis were very cooperative and thanks to government support with more information we are coping very well. He said that it is hoped that Bahrain can be a base for every kind of help while Kuwait is rebuilt. Ultimately, once all the Gulf people feel secure and the future more sure the area will be ripe for development, he said. Even a boom was possible in a region that is already wealthy.

Inevitably the Gulf crisis has slowed development, delaying plans from today until tomorrow, and from tomorrow until the day after, he said, and added that delays are very different to closing down, industries big

and small have slowed down, but they will pick up again, we feel it is only a matter of time.

Bahrain like most countries experiences recessions. Some are more affected than others, but I can assure you that we have not been as badly affected as some countries in Europe even by the crisis, Shaykh Khalifah said.

Shaykh Khalifah said that defence and security will be the main topic month's GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit in Qatar. [sentence as received] Ways of strengthening our existing position, which is already sound, will be fully explored, he added.

The Bahraini premier said physical military defences may be stepped up as member states discuss ways of bolstering security, but did not rule out permanent help from our allies...our brothers who came to support us in this situation.

We as GCC countries will have to come out with some kind of plan that will ensure peace and stability in the area and this includes continued consultation with our friends he noted. Ultimately the best way to ensure future security is in full cooperation with our brothers and allies. He said that Bahrain and the GCC possessed the nucleus of an effective military deterrent and this would be built on. He said that strategic alliances within the area had changed. For instance we have developed a new relationship with Iran which must be taken into overall account when talking about regional stability, he said.

Shaykh Khalifah said that defence will be a priority of the 1991-1992 Bahrain national budget, but we are hoping joint efforts will be shared and that in itself will help every one of us in the area.

The prime minister said there are priorities and we must all work at what has been disturbed for stability. He said talk should not be on what happens after the legitimate government of Kuwait is returned. First we have to get the Iraqis out. I am sure the Kuwait Government has the best interests of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti people and it will reflect on all of us in the area. He agreed there had been a lot of talk about democracy but Iraq's aggression against Kuwait would have happened whether there had been a democracy in place or not. Bahrain has chosen to move towards democracy and if we tried it before we can do it again but there are preparations. We are not interested in just a good name. The government will stop at no limits to do what is right for the safety and security of its people, Shaykh Khalifah said. He stressed the realities of the Gulf crisis and warned more sacrifices could have to be made if war broke out, especially by soldiers—Arab and otherwise—fighting for what is right.

Shaykh Khalifah praised the quick action by the Saudi monarch King Fahd in averting a catastrophe. The painful fact is that the Iraqis did intend the same situation in the eastern province, Bahrain, Qatar, and possibly the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. The Iraqis definitely intended to drive its forces across our borders, Shaykh Khalifah said.

He criticised the way some foreign newspapers, television and radio were distorting and fudging these facts, turning world attention to how many hostages have been released and to planes being chartered. [sentence as received] Amidst all this Kuwait is being given almost second priority in international eyes, he said. We must not forget the reasons for the presence of multi-national forces and the resolve to free Kuwait remains steadfast.

Shaykh Khalifah said it was premature to speculate on post-crisis policies. Bahrain has good relations with the civilised world, and this did not come about easily. We in the Gulf are willing to fight for whatever is best for our countries in every way. He said that hand in hand, Gulf countries could be much stronger than before. Kuwait played a strong role in the Gulf and it will play an even stronger role bolstered by the experience of the crisis, he said.

The prime minister predicted a new era of cooperation by nations trading with the Gulf. Two-way investment will run into billions, and it is only natural to deal with countries, whether Western or Arab, who have supported us, he said. He said that the GCC's trade potential is enormous and full cooperation will be in everyone's interest.

Shaykh Khalifah also forecast a banking sector revival with business gaining momentum and becoming even stronger than before. Banking will recover, I do not want to predict a time but I am sure that after the crisis banks will be back in an even bigger force. Already Japanese banks who left have returned, he said. Bahrain would welcome back any companies that close operations during the crisis. They will be welcomed back, we have good relations with their governments, Shaykh Khalifah said. We have work to do, a great deal of work to do but this will be made easier by the even stronger spirit of unity instilled by the Gulf crisis. Shaykh Khalifah said this would boost Bahrain industrialisation schemes which were now stronger than ever before. At a time like this we need all the helping hands we can find among our people, the premier said.

He also feels that the island's fledgling tourist industry has a bright future once the crisis is over. Tourism will pick up once the [words indistinct] and we're not standing still, providing additional facilities all the time Shaykh Khalifah added.

Company to Service Iranian Tankers

NC1112090090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0635 GMT
11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—The Arab Company for Ship Building and Repair (ASRI) [acronym as received] and the Iranian navigation company Fajr have signed an agreement that ASRI will maintain the 90 tankers owned by the Iranian company.

Today's issue of the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM cites Fajr Director General Ahmad Makhmali as saying that the agreement between the two companies is for one year and renewable.

Makhmali also disclosed that the competent authorities in Bahrain and Iran have agreed to operate the first maritime transport line between the two countries, beginning Saturday 22 December 1990. The line will offer both passenger and freight services, he noted. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Paper on Hostage Release, Iraqi Stance

PM1112164690 Cairo AL-ANBA in Arabic
9 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "No Concessions"—newspaper previously known as Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] As we and everyone else expected, the Iraqi dictator has begun his maneuvering and procrastination even before the dialogue has started. Even the timing of the dialogue, whether in Washington or Baghdad, is already the subject of bargaining. The release of the hostages is also part of the time-wasting bargaining process, because the Iraqi authorities are insisting that the hostages can only travel on Iraqi aircraft. That will undoubtedly prolong the foreign nationals' release process, apart from being a propaganda ploy and a move to break the air embargo imposed on Baghdad and the possibility of foodstuffs' finding their way into the cargo on the journey back to Iraq.

That is not all. The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, one of Saddam's trumpets, insolently rejects the UN Security Council resolutions, describing them as U.S. resolutions under an international umbrella, and talks with such impudence about the expected U.S.-Iraqi dialogue, demanding concessions from Washington and most insolently asserting that Baghdad will not be the side to make concessions.

If matters are to be judged by intentions, the Iraqi butcher's intentions are quite clear and open, with no indication of any serious step toward peace. If there has been any retreat in the Iraqi position, such a retreat has so far been nothing more than tactical moves falling short of a commitment to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially complete withdrawal and restoration of the legitimate authorities.

In brief, through his dialogue with President Bush's administration and the EC, the Baghdad ruler wants to secure concessions from the international community. The hostage release gift was only a disguised "bribe" to achieve that warped objective.

These are the Iraqi dictator's intentions, but what about the international community's reactions to it?

So far, all the signs are positive and firm. Statements by all Western officials in general, and U.S. officials in particular, confirm that there is no room for concessions or bargaining, that dialogue does not mean negotiation, and that the ultimatum addressed to Saddam al-Tikriti has not been changed or altered and remains sharp, hot, and firm.

However, this does not mean that we should be silent or complacent. Our voice must reach all parts of the globe, loud and clear, promptly exposing the Baghdad ruler's intentions and maneuvers. The political and informational moves of our governments must be addressed to the public and other governments, particularly since public opinion and party opinion in the Western states plays an essential part in defining and steering government policies.

The international situation and the world's position on the Gulf crisis still inspire confidence, but caution and intensive political action are needed to bring us closer and closer to the decisive moment of liberation.

Iraq Seen Favoring West in Hostage Release

PM1112114490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AW'SAT
in Arabic 7 Dec 90 p 11

[Editorial: "From The Hostages' Release to the Release of Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] President Saddam Husayn did well when he started to heed the call of reason and released the foreign hostages, whose detention has been an Arab and Islamic disgrace for every Arab and Muslim, to the extent that others have started to look at our heritage, values, and traditions from the angle of our dealings with human beings. [passage omitted]

Because the Iraqi president has eliminated an important obstacle in his crisis with the West, the matter requires an important pause for thought so that we Arabs can ask, with the logic of brotherhood: Are the other Arabs not entitled to return to their country, just as the "infidels" will return to their countries on board comfortable planes, seen off at Baghdad Airport with smiles and perhaps presents?

Are the Kuwaitis who have lost their territory and homeland not entitled to return to Kuwait with dignity and respect, with us wiping away their tears, dressing their wounds, and sharing in their tragedy, especially since the Kuwaitis include many, many women and children, as well as old, innocent, and ordinary people?

Are the Palestinians working in Kuwaiti territory who steadfastly supported their territory and country in occupied Palestine not entitled to return with dignity and respect?

Are the Moroccans, Yemenis, Egyptians, and other Arab nationals whom the Iraqi president claims to be defending and fighting the rich for not entitled to return

to Kuwaiti territory, just as other non-Arab nationals have returned to their countries?;

Are they—and they are Arabs—not entitled to be treated by Saddam Husayn as he treats foreigners? His media do not tire of focusing on foreigners' and the West's hostility and talk at length about its dangers and the need to besiege it everywhere, but we have now discovered that the West is the first to benefit from that crisis. The latest example is the release of the hostages.

Is Kuwait itself not entitled to be freed from captivity, since it is the major hostage held by President Saddam Husayn?

Saddam Husayn's duty to the Arabs is to safeguard their blood, honor, territories, and existence, which are threatened by his ambitions and mental changes. Perhaps now he will heed the voice of reason—and there is still time for him to repent and respond to the voice of logic and the Arab conscience—and withdraw from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

So let Saddam Husayn release the major hostage, Kuwait, so that the Arabs can be happy, just as the Americans and the West are. And big round of applause for the "generosity" offered to foreigners and denied to brothers!!

Oman

Minister of State, Chief of Staff Appointed

NC1212151090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has issued two royal decrees, No. 91/90 and 92/90. The following is the text of the two decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Royal decree 91/90 providing for the appointment of a minister of state.

We, Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, after taking cognizance of royal decree No. 26/75 providing for the issuance of a law for the organization of the state's administrative department and its amendments, and on the basis of the requisites of the public interest, decree the following:

1. Hamid Bin-Sa'id Bin-Muhammad al-'Awfi shall be appointed minister of state.
2. This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall become effective on the date it is issued.

Issued on 24 Jumada al-'Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 12 December 1990.

[Signed] Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman

Royal decree No. 92/90 providing for the appointment of the chief of staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces and commander of the Omani Sultanate's Army:

We, Qabus Bin-Said, the sultan of Oman, after taking cognizance of royal decree No. 26/75 providing for the issuance of a law for the organization of the state's administrative department and its amendments, and on the basis of the requisites of the public interest, decree the following:

1. Major General Khamis Bin-Humayd Bin-Salim al-Kalbani shall be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and appointed chief of staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces.

2. Brigadier General 'Ali Bin-Rashid Bin-Muhammad al-Kalbani shall be appointed to the rank of major general and appointed commander of the Omani Sultanate's Army.

3. This decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall become effective on the date it is issued.

Issued on 24 Jumada al-'Ula 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 12 December 1990.

[Signed] Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman

Qatar

Amir Opens Consultative Council 8 Dec

NC0812103090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT
8 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 8 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, opened the 19th session of the Consultative Council this morning.

Speaking before the council, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah said that the council is meeting under extremely serious conditions created by Iraq's brutal aggression against Kuwait. He said that the destructive effects of this aggression, which was a flagrant violation of all international norms and charters, have not been confined to security and stability in the Gulf region alone. This aggression has shaken the entire world order and international peace and security.

His highness referred to the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which were unanimous in calling for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority under His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

His highness added that Iraq's refusal to comply with the unanimous international demands embodied in these resolutions prompted the Security Council to issue its

latest resolution authorizing the use of all means necessary to implement its resolutions on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

His highness added that as part of the efforts to exhaust every opportunity to resolve the crisis peacefully, the U.S. President put forward an initiative proposing direct talks between the United States and Iraq within the framework of this recent resolution and in order to achieve its objectives. His highness the amir of Qatar stressed that his country welcomes this initiative and hopes it will accelerate the return of peace and security to the region and spare it, and the whole world, the horrors of war.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah noted that the Iraqi aggression came at a time the world was witnessing the birth of a new world order based on respect for the principles of international legitimacy, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, international cooperation instead of confrontation, and respect for the rights of all countries and peoples, be they big or small. The end of the cold war and the consolidation of the policy of international détente were but the first fruits of this new order.

His highness added: "We believe that consolidating this new world order in the Middle East, one of the world's most explosive regions, requires that it be turned into a zone free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction and that all disputes among its states be resolved by peaceful means, as stipulated by the UN Charter, including negotiations and resort to the International Court of Justice."

Turning to inter-Arab affairs, his highness noted that it is indeed a source of regret that the Iraqi aggression came at a time when the Arab states had started to make progress toward rectifying their affairs by settling their outstanding differences and consolidating their ties of solidarity. It also came at a time when the world had started to show sympathy for the just Arab causes, foremost among which is the Palestinian issue. The importance of this issue and of the heroic intifadah is now overshadowed by the events of this aggression.

His highness added: "As we underline our firm position alongside the fraternal Palestinian people and the justness of their cause, we are confident that the settlement of the Gulf crisis through the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait will allow the world community to redirect its attention to finding a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue on the basis of the UN resolutions."

Regarding Lebanon, his highness said the State of Qatar welcomes the ongoing efforts to achieve national reconciliation and extend the state's authority throughout the territory of this Arab country through the application of the national accord charter, so that peace and stability may prevail throughout Lebanon, thus enabling it to reassume its important role in serving the interests of the Arab nation.

Continuing his political address to the Consultative Council, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah added: "We look forward to meeting and welcoming their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders to Doha, where the 11th summit of the Council's member states is scheduled to be held on 22 December." He added that this important annual meeting "has become a prominent landmark on the road toward achieving our aspirations for greater security and integration in our countries and toward strengthening the fateful ties that exist among our fraternal peoples."

His highness praised the GCC's numerous and important achievements, which were made in record time and which deal not only with political, economic, and other aspects that are of a sovereign nature but also include issues that affect the affairs of the Gulf citizen, provide him with stability and a dignified life in the present and the future, and unify the rules governing the various aspects of his vocational and economic activities.

The amir of Qatar said: The GCC has occupied a prominent position in regional and international fora because of its constructive policies. This was manifested by the comprehensive support for the just issue of Kuwait in these fora and from all countries. He stressed that the current critical circumstances require an intensification of the efforts to achieve greater solidarity and rallying among the GCC's member states.

On the domestic front, his highness reviewed some important achievements made in various fields. He said that in the field of developing the country's fuel resources, the state has continued its interest in achieving the optimal exploitation of gas deposits in the sea and has, toward that end, completed drawing up a strategic plan to exploit this gas and other chemicals. This is in addition to the necessary projects for exporting it and for setting up industries that rely on gas and its derivatives. He noted that this plan includes the optimal exploitation of the industrial area in Musay'id.

His highness said that the first stage of the project to exploit the gas in the sea, which took around three-and-one-half years to prepare, will start operations early next year. The capacity for this first stage is estimated at 800 cubic meters and the equivalent of 50,000 barrels of gas variables [mukaththafat] daily. The gas produced will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the power-generating and water desalination plants, the existing industries in the country, and many of the new industries that will be set up in the future.

In his review of industrialization, his highness said that the projects to expand the industrial base in Musay'id have reached an advanced stage of planning and preparation. These projects include a large increase in the productive capacity of the fertilizers and petrochemicals factories to the extent of doubling the production of some materials.

His highness added: We are also continuing our efforts to set up projects to export liquified gas to Europe, the Far

East, and Southeast Asia. The Qatari Petroleum Corporation is at present discussing a number of ambitious industrial projects that depend on gas and its derivatives with other parties.

In his review of domestic policy, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani said that, in its endeavors to support the private sector, the state is eager to keep the door to enable this sector to participate as fully as possible in development projects. He noted that this trend emerged last year when the establishment of a number of leading and large companies was encouraged, including the Qatari electricity and water companies and the Qatari company for intermediate industries. Subscription to these companies' shares has shown the Qatari citizen's interest in developing his homeland.

Regarding human resources development, his highness the amir said: It is a source of pride that the number of male and female Qataris with college degrees has reached 7,000 today. They are contributing to the service of their country, playing a role in building and developing it. Around a thousand will join their ranks each year, God willing, during the coming years.

He said that this pool of male and female graduates encouraged the state to continue with firmness and confidence in its plan to replace foreigners with Qataris to the greatest extent possible in the shortest possible time.

His highness stressed that while Qatar continues to devote its attention to development and to the provision of a free and dignified life for its citizens, it has never forgotten its duties toward Arab and Islamic nations, particularly developing ones. He added that since independence, the state has never hesitated to contribute within its resources to what it believes to be its duty in view of its Arab and Islamic affiliation and its membership in the international community. He stressed that Qatar will remain committed to its national issues and will do all it can to make its voice heard, to strengthen its position, and to serve its just causes. [passage omitted]

French Commander Says Iraq Blockade 'Absolute'

JN2911143790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT
27 Nov 90

[French names as received]

[Text] Doha, 27 Nov (WAKH)—A French military commander has declared that the international maritime blockade imposed on Iraq is absolute and in earnest; it is achieving its objectives effectively. Captain Jean-Luc Canny, commander of the French destroyer La Maute Bique, said that the naval units of the multinational forces in the Gulf and in the Red and Arabian Seas, are intercepting and thoroughly inspecting all ships coming from and going to Iraq. In a statement to the Qatari newspapers AL-RAYAH and AL-SHARQ, the commander of the French destroyer, currently on a visit to the port of Doha, said that the French Naval forces have

so far participated in the monitoring of approximately 3,500 ships in the region and has inspected 70 of them.

The French commander noted that his country's naval units possess advanced technological capability to monitor and inspect the ships and apply the measures required by the blockade.

The commander said that French naval units were ready to present any information demanded by the Arabian Gulf states regarding the maritime trade activities in the region.

He expressed conviction that the Security Council's expected warning to Iraq would intensify the efforts to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. He also declared that his country was ready to confront any Iraqi provocation or attack, even if it involved chemical weapons.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Saudi Defense Minister

NC1212140790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1333 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today received Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and his accompanying delegation.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid held a meeting with Prince Sultan in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current crisis arising from the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, the common stand and moves by the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council regarding this crisis, and ways of promoting and strengthening the close relations between the two countries.

Sudanese NDA Supporter Meets U.S. Ambassador

EA1210170890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Dec (SUNA)—A source reaching SUNA confirmed that Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi [brother of ousted Sudanese Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi and supporter of the National Democratic Alliance's, NDA, "legitimate armed forces command"] last week held a four-hour meeting with the U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. The (?agency) said that what was discussed was not available. [Words indistinct] and it added that Mubarak al-Fadil left Abu Dhabi for Jeddah after the meeting.

Yemen

Minister Receives Genscher Message on Gulf

JN0812150090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani today received Dr. (Kurt Weiler), German minister [words indistinct], who conveyed to him a message from German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher addressed to Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In his message, Genscher expressed his country's thanks and appreciation for the efforts the Republic of Yemen made to secure the departure of all German nationals in both Iraq and Kuwait. The message also dealt with bilateral ties, the recent Gulf developments, and consultations between the two countries in this regard.

ASWA Planning Free Trade Zone for Aden

EA0712093890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] A working party from the Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia [ASWA] arrived in Aden this morning. The YEMEN NEWS AGENCY has learned that it comprises four experts, who will study and present a report on the project to establish a free zone in Aden. They were met by Brother 'Abdallah Salim al-Khadir, chairman of the board of directors of the national chamber of commerce and industry, and the director general, and a number of officials of the Ministry of Planning in Aden.

Iraqi Plane To Pick Up Hostages in Kuwait

NC1312090590 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13 (AFP)—A U.S.-chartered Iraqi plane left Thursday for Kuwait to pick up Western nationals to be evacuated to Frankfurt, Germany, aviation sources said.

The plane was expected to return later in the day to Baghdad where the former hostages were to board a Boeing 707 on a flight to Frankfurt.

In Washington, the State Department said Wednesday that 15 Americans were to fly out to Frankfurt on what was expected to be the last U.S.-chartered evacuation flight.

It was unclear whether the five diplomats still at the U.S. Embassy in occupied Kuwait, including Ambassador Nathaniel Howell, were also on the passenger list.

Most Western and Japanese hostages held since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have flown home since Iraq offered their unconditional release on December 7.

Some 3,000 had been detained in Iraq and Kuwait to deter an attack by U.S.-led multinational forces that were deployed in the Gulf after the emirate was invaded on August 2.

Around 600 Westerners, mostly Americans, have decided to stay behind for family or professional reasons.

New Defense Minister Takes Constitutional Oath

JN1312212690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas took the constitutional oath before President Saddam Husayn this morning as new defense minister.

The ceremony was attended by Presidential Office Chief Ahmad Husayn.

Says Will 'Never' Attack Turkey

JN1212210890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2036 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—In reply to a statement made by the Turkish defense minister yesterday, the defense minister made the following statement to INA today:

Since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, various parties led by Zionism and the United States have been attempting to muddle Iraqi-Turkish relations, which have been based on trust and cooperation for the past decades. In spite of the statements made by this or that Turkish official, Iraq has chosen not to react to any of these statements. This was its general position, so that the parties lying in wait could not use this or that word to

exacerbate the situation between two neighboring countries whose peoples are bound by the ties of Islam and good neighborliness.

Today, we find it useful to say in response to a statement made by the Turkish defense minister to the effect that "the presence of military reinforcements in southeast Turkey is to react if an Iraqi attack takes place" that Iraq has never entertained and will never entertain the idea of attacking Turkey, a friendly country. If people have fabricated bad news to Turkish officials, these officials should make sure that Iraq will only harbor friendship and a desire to establish developed ties with Turkey—ties that would serve Turkey, Iraq, and all Muslims.

RCC Pardons Dissidents, Deserters

JN1312122190 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—The Revolution Command Council has decided a general amnesty on Iraqis defected abroad, and all legal procedures against them should be halted completely as concerns the political crimes and crimes of desertion and absence.

National Assembly To Meet 22 Dec

JN1212154090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] It has been decided that a National Assembly session will be held at 1700 [1400 GMT] on Saturday, 22 December 1990. National Assembly members are requested to attend on time.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly.

Paper Reports Jordanian Story on ICBM Test

JN1212160390 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic
10 Dec 90 p 2

[From the "Significant Signs" column]

[Text] The Jordanian newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B has said that Western quarters are circulating information claiming that Iraq will soon launch an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range that will reach the Indian Ocean and that it will be launched on the same day the U.S. Secretary of State arrives in Baghdad.

U.S. 'Maneuver' at UN Council Debate Reported

JN1312082490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The United Nations, 13 Dec (INA)—For the third time, the Security Council last night postponed its session to vote on a draft resolution calling for the protection of the Palestinian people and the holding of an international peace conference.

The INA correspondent in New York said the Council held a short meeting last night at which the deputy of the Soviet representative passed a U.S. maneuver postponing the voting session until 1500 Monday.

The postponement was opposed by the representatives of the four countries that presented the draft resolution—namely, Yemen, president of the current session; Malaysia; Colombia; and Cuba. China and France abstained. [passage omitted]

Paper Warns War 'Disaster' for U.S., Israel

JN1312095790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today warned that any aggression on Iraq by the United States or Israel will not have only limited consequences and effects, as some would like to imagine.

In an editorial entitled "The Crucial Battle Will Liberate All Arab Lands," the paper says that such an aggression will turn into a disaster for the invading U.S. forces and America's fabricated entity, Israel.

The paper stresses that the crucial battle will come to an end only when America has suffered incurable wounds, when Palestine has been liberated, and when an artificial, monstrous state called Israel has been removed.

The paper says that the struggle in the region between Iraq's independent policy and imperialism, represented by the United States and its fabrication, Israel, has never stopped; it has always been intensive and manifest in different shapes and means according to circumstances. But after the American invasion of the region and its preparations for war against Iraq, the struggle has developed into a direct clash. In other words, the Gulf crisis has for the first time placed Iraq, together with the Arab nation, the Islamic world, and all virtuous, free, and honorable men in the world face-to-face with the enemies of God and humanity—namely America, Israel, and the colonialist forces in the West.

The paper stresses that any U.S. aggression against Iraq will take place with the participation and collusion of the Zionist entity. We are therefore not surprised at the harmony in preparations for aggression by Washington and Tel Aviv. Our eyes are wide open to their conspiratorial coordination, and we are drawing up our military plans in a manner that guarantees decisive deterrence against all enemies, especially Israel, which will not be safe from our crushing, destructive strikes if it dares to provide any form of backing and assistance to the expected U.S. aggression, for which we have prepared a destructive force.

AL-QADISIYAH also refers to the existing coordination between Israel and the agent regimes, such as the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the humiliated and subservient Husni regime. It says that this coordination, which is directly supervised by Bush's

America, reveals the nature of the colonialist plans against the Arab nation through this treasonous alliance and the role set out for it by the United States after the Gulf crisis has ended.

The paper stresses that Iraq, through its intelligent leadership represented by President Saddam Husayn, realizes the dimensions and size of the premeditated conspiracy against it and the Arab nation, and has precisely determined its main and secondary enemies—agents and traitors—and the sources of their brute force as well as their weaknesses.

It adds: When the time for punishment comes, these will discover the size of the deterrent force we have prepared for them. They will be consumed in fires comparable to hell, with Israel thrown into this fire, and the heads of traitors, like agents Fahd and Husni and the like, rolling down. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Baghdad Will Not Back Down

JN1312084790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called on the U.S. Administration, which still likes to beat the drums of war and threaten to go to war, to realize full well that Iraq's people, Armed Forces, and leadership are completely resolved to fight and triumph.

In its editorial today, the paper says the determination to fight and emerge victorious is firm and irrevocable, and that crowing about the addition of more troops and weapons to the military U.S.-Atlantic buildup will not put a single hair out of place on the head of any Iraqi child.

The paper calls on Bush to memorize all the facts he knows or expects, and not to believe the illusions and lies he is trying to promote. He must be assured, the paper says, that Iraq will not change its national and pan-Arab goals and will by no means back down, whether in war or peace, because it has righteousness on its side. [passage omitted]

The paper adds: When the time for the major battle comes, the American invaders and those entrenched with them will see that the entire region without exception will explode, and that millions of Arabs and Muslims will rush to fight alongside Iraq's heroic Army and fighters. They will fight the invading aggressors wherever they exist and wherever they have economic and vital interests.

The paper says that feelings of failure and frustration preoccupying Bush's mind have pushed him to intensify his maneuvers, deception, and lies in an attempt to introduce important and swift changes in the American people's positions and convictions, which oppose war and reject his adventurist policies. [passage omitted]

Kuwait's Return to Iraq 'Indisputable' Fact*JN1212095290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT
12 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that Kuwait's return to Iraq is an indisputable eternal and irreversible fact.

Commenting today on press and news media reports on an alleged Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the paper, which expresses the views of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Any party that speaks about possible Iraqi concessions that would undermine the essence of its principle of not relinquishing any of its rights, is actually speaking out of an intentional subversive logic.

The paper describes Kuwait's return to Iraq as a great historical achievement in the interest of the Arabs and Muslims. It notes that the most significant achievement is the ending of the abnormal situation that was represented by turning Kuwait into a center of plotting against Iraq and the Arab nation and an advanced base for the American intelligence and its schemes.

AL-'IRAQ Warns Against Bush 'Manipulations'*JN1212153590 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT
12 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 12, INA—An Iraqi newspaper said that behaviours and moves of the American President unveiled his impasse and the state of desperation, he is facing as a result to his failure in justifying his occupation of the Arab Gulf.

The paper AL-'IRAQ warned good forces of the world against the manipulations and manoeuvres of the American President and to be vigilant towards those risking the lives of their people and evil designs against world peace and security before it is too late.

The paper said that wars could not be won through threats of using force and stressed that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn was capable of giving the arrogant Americans telling lessons if the battle was to start.

Paper on Bush's 'Undeclared Objective' in Gulf*JN1212153790 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT
12 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 12, INA—The Iraqi English language daily "BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said here today that the undeclared objective of President Bush is occupation of the oil-rich Gulf region to intimidate Arabs, bring them down to their knees and perpetuate Israel's superiority in the region and its occupation of Palestine.

The U.S. plans for this region had been made long before the Gulf crisis. It was only a matter of time and convenience.

A real opportunity came with the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers during the Iraq-Iran war and the presence of a U.S. naval force in the Gulf at the time.

When the war ended, the U.S. did not leave the Gulf and conspired with the former Kuwaiti regime against Iraq.

People who have followed the developments of the past four months will most probably be aware of these facts and so cannot be deceived by the U.S. claims. However, the Bush administration will surely be disappointed if it believes the U.S. can stay here indefinitely. It will also be disappointed to imagine it can break the power of Iraq or its people.

The U.S. has already overstayed its welcome if it ever was welcomed and the sooner American soldiers leave, the better for their safety. U.S. allies in the region are unreliable because their own future is precarious.

The U.S. had better pack its soldiers off and leave the region before it's too late.

Algerian President Bendjedid Arrives in Baghdad*JN1212141190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1327 GMT
12 Dec 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the head of a delegation on an official visit to Iraq.

Leader President Saddam Husayn headed those welcoming his Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid on arrival. Also receiving him were 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC); Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

After a short rest in the VIP lounge, during which the two presidents exchanged cordial words, his excellency the president accompanied his guest in an official motorcade to his place of residence where he will be treated as an important guest of the Iraqi people and government.

President Chadli Bendjedid's delegation comprises Sid Ahmed Ghozali, minister of foreign affairs, and Mohamed Sahnun, adviser to the president for political affairs.

Leader President Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of his brother President Chadli Bendjedid and his delegation.

The banquet was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign

minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Meets With Saddam

JN1212212590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2107 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this evening his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

President Saddam Husayn and Chadli Bendjedid held a round of talks that dealt with strong bilateral relations and ways to develop them in all fields. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region and the threats facing the Arab nation's security and future, particularly the threat to the Palestine question. They concentrated on the need to unite Arab efforts to protect Arab rights and confront external threats through solidarity and by adopting a position based on basic Arab principles and interests.

The talks were attended for Iraq by Revolution Command Council [RCC] members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister. They were attended for Algeria by Sid Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs; Mohamed Sahnun, adviser to the president for political affairs; and the Algerian ambassador in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of his brother President Chadli Benjedid and his delegation.

The banquet was attended by the RCC members, ministers, and ranking officials.

'Aziz Receives Indian Official Visiting Baghdad

JN1212161890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Mr. Ramesh Bhandari, former Indian Prime Minister and Rajiv Gandhi's advisor.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the region.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz stressed the need to deal with all issues in the region and to rally international efforts in this direction. He highlighted President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August as the strong and just basis for dealing with these issues and achieving a permanent and just peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by the head of the international conferences and organizations department and the head of the second political department at the Foreign Ministry.

Official Departs

JN1212162190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—Ramesh Bhandari, adviser to Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Indian National Congress and former Indian prime minister, left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

Bhandari was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and the Indian ambassador in Baghdad.

ICRC Official on Cooperation With Red Crescent

JN1012100690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT
10 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA)—Anglo Kanaco [name as received], head of the Middle East Section of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], has stated that the ICRC will provide Iraq with first aid equipment that will cover the needs of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society [IRCS] volunteers.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH today, Kanaco said that he is currently visiting Iraq with Decor Tan [name as received], chief of the ICRC operations section, to carry out fruitful cooperation and support the activities of the IRCS.

He added that it was agreed to hold a national conference for first aid in Baghdad in coordination with the ICRC at the beginning of next month. The conference will be attended by ICRC experts.

He stated that a national first aid center will be established in Iraq and that this center will be linked to the IRCS and financed by the ICRC.

Delegation Leaves

JN0912214590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] delegation led by Decor Tan [name as received], chief of the ICRC operations section, left Baghdad today following a four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Decor Tan said that he held successful talks with Iraqi Red Crescent Society officials, during which it was agreed that the ICRC would supply Iraq with first aid equipment to be distributed to the Iraqi Red Crescent volunteers in the country's governorates. It was also agreed to establish a national first aid center. The ICRC will finance this center in full and supply it with technological first aid equipment.

Italian Officials Leave After 'Successful' Visit

JN0912183190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—The Italian parliamentary delegation headed by Roberto Formigoni, deputy

president of the European Parliament and member of the Italian Parliament, left Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Formigoni described his visit to Iraq as successful and fruitful and said he met with a number of Iraqi officials and discussed with them all issues of the region.

He stressed the importance of dialogue—which has become a tangible reality—in solving all problems in the region. He stressed the need for avoiding force as means to solve problems.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by member of the Arab and International Affairs Committee at the National Assembly.

European Parliament Official Rejects U.S. Policy

JN0812143790 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT
8 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 8, INA—The vice chairman of the European Parliament, currently visiting Iraq, expressed the European people's full rejection of America's policy of imposing its hegemony on the world's capabilities.

In a statement issued by AL-QADISIYAH daily today, he confirmed the European people's willingness in living peacefully and called for finding strong and right bases for establishing fruitful relations between the Arabs and European peoples for consolidating peace, security and stability in the world.

The European MP confirmed the importance of holding a dialogue with Iraq in the light of recent developments in the region.

Finnish Delegation Calls for Peaceful Solution

JN0812151690 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT
8 Dec 90

[Baghdad] Baghdad, Dec 8, INA—A Finnish delegation visiting Baghdad stressed that military confrontation should be avoided as much as possible and that all the parties concerned must resort to dialogue and negotiations which are now at hand.

Dr. Paavo Vayrynen, a member of the Finnish Parliament and a former foreign minister, told the BAGHDAD OBSERVER it seems that the whole situation is very complicated but there are positive signs which herald that peace would prevail. "There should be negotiations to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis".

He said it was natural that all peace activists come to the region to consolidate efforts in the interest of world peace.

"We are gathering information about the situation in the Gulf and would hopefully be acquainted with the Iraqi position on the Gulf crisis so as to take part in promoting a peaceful solution in the region", said Dr. Vayrynen.

He added that the Finnish attitude towards the Middle East had always been very balanced, taking into account the Palestinian question.

"Finland has the attitude that all the problems of the Middle East must be comprehensively and simultaneously solved", said the Finnish MP.

He pointed out that the Finnish mission to Iraq was personally motivated, with certain official backing from the Finnish Foreign Ministry.

"We are speaking with the good traditions and good prospects for the future relations between the two countries as many Finnish people want to come here and cooperate with Iraqis", said Mr. Vayrynen.

He concluded that "it is favourable that foreigners in Iraq be given the opportunity to leave or stay in Iraq as that would have a good impact on world public opinion".

Dr. Vayrynen visited Baghdad in April 1978, when he was foreign minister. His host was then Dr Sa'dun Hammadi. At that time there were some 2,000 Finns working in Iraq.

Meanwhile, Chief Manager and Chairman of the Board of the Finnish STS-Bank Mr. Ulf Sundqvist said that there are different peace initiatives that could be the basis for a dialogue to prevent broader military activity in the area and, in turn, in the world.

"The Gulf region has always been the focus of interest for many powers of the world. Because of its wealth and natural resources, we see that many powers have dispatched their troops in the region. [quotation marks as received]

This state created tension which must be removed", said Mr. Sundqvist. He said peace can be attained when the people of the region are given the opportunity to solve their own problems. [quotation mark as received]

Dr. Vayrynen stressed that the Finnish principled policy is to help every nation solve its own problems by itself. "Therefore, we hope that the Gulf crisis would be settled by the Arab people and within Arab framework".

He also said that humanitarian aid should be given to Iraq, adding that the Finnish red cross had already sent some medicines with the Finnish delegation.

"Dr. Vanamo, who is the physician of the Finnish Red Cross is studying Iraq's urgent needs and then make appropriate arrangements for sending the medicines needed. We hope that this would be a prelude for further cooperation between the two countries after the crisis ends".

Sa'id Asks Swiss Government To Unfreeze Accounts

JN0912213890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has urged the Swiss Government to unfreeze Iraqi accounts to pay for orders of shipments of medicines bought from Swiss firms.

He said that it has proved impossible for Swiss firms to export medicines while offshore Iraqi deposits earmarked for the purchase of medical supplies and vaccines are still frozen.

The minister appreciated the Swiss Government's decision to license the export of vital medicines to Iraq.

In a letter to the chief of the international affairs department at the Swiss Government, the minister explained Iraq's exceptional circumstances due to the economic embargo, which has caused a big shortage in medicines, vaccines, children's milk and foodstuffs, resulting in deaths, mostly among children.

Papers Report on Civil Defense Preparations

JN1212182490

[Editorial Report] The four Iraqi dailies, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, AL-THAWRAH, and AL-JUMHURIYAH on 10 December 1990 carry several reports on civil defense drills and instructions, and on meetings in various parts of Iraq to highlight the importance of civil defense "whose objectives are very clear," according to Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab. He says that "at the top of these objectives is safeguarding the human and material resources of the country so we can conduct a real battle against the enemy."

The four newspapers report on a meeting held on the instructions of President Saddam Husayn under the chairmanship of Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, interior minister and supreme commander of the Higher Command Commission for Civil Defense. The meeting was attended by governors and members of the Higher Command Commission.

At the beginning of the meeting, the interior minister "reviewed the good efforts by the conferees to prepare society and the state to face the anticipated situations and to promote and complete the preparations to deter the nation's enemies." It was decided during the meeting to hold weekly meetings of the committees of vocational safety and industrial security. The governors discussed "plans and programs in their governorates" to prepare the organs of the state, the party, and the masses. At the end of the meeting, the chairman of the Information Committee of the Higher Command Commission noted "the importance of the media at this stage." He added

that "the enemy might disseminate daily news to fabricate rumors." He urged the media to explain to the citizens the importance of civil defense.

The four dailies also report on a seminar in Karkuk attended by comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Ba'th Organization in the north, who called for "preparing plans to face war and emergency circumstances and to spread civil defense awareness among the citizens to enable them to carry out their role perfectly."

AL-QADISIYAH carries on page 6 a separate section under the heading "Civil Defense News." Most of the news in this section deals with the graduation of members of the Iraqi Women Federation, students, and teachers from special classes held on civil defense subjects. These classes were held in Dahuk, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, al-Qadisiyah, and al-Muthanna. The "Civil Defense News" section also reports a mock civil defense exercise in al-Hillah in the Governorate of Babylon.

AL-QADISIYAH also carries on page 7 full-page reportage on the Civil Defense Directorate's efforts to implement the plans and programs of civil defense. In a statement to the paper, Brigadier General Qasim al-Shammari, director of the Baghdad Civil Defense Directorate, reviews the plan that was implemented as of 4 December "to prepare an alert society that knows and understands the work and activities of civil defense." He adds that in accordance with the plan "20 training centers were opened in Baghdad" and many more centers will be opened in the future. He says that "all citizens" will participate in training classes.

In statements to AL-QADISIYAH in the same reportage, Education Ministry officials say that schools will be used as training centers and that students will train their families after receiving the necessary training at school. The Baghdad Health Directorate is also contributing through its doctors to the training at the civil defense centers. The chief of relations and information at the Civil Defense General Directorate said that "hundreds of seminars and popular meetings were held" to brief citizens on civil defense.

AL-'IRAQ carries on page 4 a report on civil defense activities in many Iraqi governorates. In addition to the graduation of citizens from training classes, the report says that "1,580 persons participated in 35 civil defense classes in the Governorate of al-Basrah this year."

370 Training Centers To Open

JN1212172590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA)—The Higher Commission for Civil Defense has decided to open 370 civil defense training centers in Baghdad. Their task will be to familiarize citizens—through seminars and lectures to be

delivered at these centers—with their role in emergencies and how to deal with such situations.

The Directorate of Civil Defense earlier set up 30 training centers for the same purpose.

It was reported in the governorates of Wasit, al-Sulaymaniyah, al-Muthanna, Babylon, and al-Najaf that civil defense plans providing for initiating courses, holding seminars, and conducting training programs to deal with emergencies have been drawn up.

Civil defense officials in these governorates said that the plans are intended to prevent human and material losses during emergencies. Similarly, these plans are to define the citizen's role and responsibilities in such situations, the officials added.

Civil Aviation Delegation Leaves for Tehran

JN0912214190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—An Iraqi technical delegation headed by the director general of the general civil aviation authority left Baghdad for Tehran this afternoon on a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, the head of the delegation said that the delegation, which includes technicians from the general civil aviation authority and Iraqi Airways, will hold talks with Iranian civil aviation officials on the possibility of resuming flights between Baghdad and Tehran. They will also discuss aviation agreements between the two neighboring countries.

Shamir To Discuss Relations With Shevardnadze

TA1212162890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze came at the request of the Soviets. This statement was made today by Prime Minister Shamir a short while ago during a speech in Washington. He said that the issues of direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv and the full resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries would probably be discussed during their meeting. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach reports from Washington:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir kicked off his second day in Washington with a speech in which he stated that Israel is more interested than anyone else in resuming the peace process. This, however, must be done at the appropriate time—or in other words, after the Gulf crisis is resolved—and in the right way. According to Shamir it is difficult to produce more and more models and ways to further the process. The Israeli Government's peace initiative from May 1989 constitutes an excellent basis from which to move the process forward, and we should go back to it.

As for his unplanned meeting this evening with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Shamir said that this time the initiative to hold the meeting came from the Soviets. We are always interested in meeting representatives of the Soviet Government, Shamir asserted. There are many issues we would like to discuss and try to resolve together. Shamir noted that the question of direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel on the Lod-Moscow line was an important issue that had to be dealt with. We are interested in establishing full and normal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, Shamir said, and there is no reason that such relations should not exist. Shamir and Shevardnadze will probably meet this evening. The meeting was already set up, through U.S. mediation in Houston, Texas, where Shevardnadze and Secretary of State Baker have spent the last two days. Also on Shamir's schedule today are meetings with influential congressmen and with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle.

'No Progress' in Meeting

TA1312063690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conferred with the Soviet foreign minister in Washington last night. The meeting lasted for about 90 minutes, and it was later learned that no progress was made on three issues of concern to Israel: The USSR is not prepared to renew full diplomatic relations at this stage; its position on direct flights has not changed; and the work on setting up an Israeli Consulate General in Moscow has not been completed.

Mr. Shamir told correspondents that he made it clear to Minister Shevardnadze that the USSR will be able to

participate in settling the conflict in our region only if it establishes full diplomatic relations with Israel. The Soviet minister told correspondents that a long process is involved but stressed that the USSR has softened its position. It is no longer presenting preconditions and is not demanding the convening of an international conference to settle the Middle East conflict.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 13 December quotes Mr. Shamir as saying of Shevardnadze after the meeting: "He tried not to touch on anything we oppose, such as an international conference; he talked around it, without calling it by its name, saying this term must not be used explicitly. He mainly stressed their interest in being involved in international events, and we understand that is their main interest."]

Radio Comments on Meeting

TA1312113690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Official circles in Jerusalem reject the reports from Washington that Prime Minister Shamir's meeting with the Soviet foreign minister was a failure. They say it was unrealistic to expect that the issue of direct flights from Moscow or the establishment of diplomatic relations would be settled at the meeting with Shevardnadze. Jack Katzenell reports:

The content of Israeli-Soviet relations is very good, an official in Jerusalem told me this morning, but anyone who expected a dramatic announcement at the end of the Shamir-Shevardnadze meeting in Washington, the resumption of diplomatic relations, or a Soviet decision to implement the agreement on direct flights was deluding himself.

For officials in Jerusalem, the most immediate and pressing Israeli interest is in the exit of Soviet Jews, and on this the Soviet Government is cooperating. On diplomatic relations and direct flights, the Soviets will move at their own pace, as they always did in the past. In the meantime, Prime Minister Shamir has had a meeting with a top-rank Soviet leader for the first time in a year, and sources in Jerusalem say: That, in itself, is important.

Officials in Jerusalem refused to confirm or deny the London TIMES report that top Israeli political and military leaders believe Israel will have to fight Iraq alone in a year's time, if Saddam Husayn emerges from the Gulf crisis with his Army and nonconventional weapons intact. All the Israeli officials would say with regard to Saddam Husayn was: We are keeping all our options open.

Shamir Interviewed on Meeting With Bush

TA1212204590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1940 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Ya'ir Stern in Washington on 11 December, aired during the weekly "Moqed" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Stern] Sir, you spoke for two hours in private. Perhaps you would not like to give us the details of the entire conversation, but what can you tell us?

[Shamir] Well, we had an interesting conversation. We discussed the Gulf crisis, the various possibilities and rumors, and Israel's position with regard to the crisis. I would say that I received quite satisfactory answers on all these issues.

[Stern] Did you raise the qualms that are felt by many in Israel, that Israel may have been slightly pushed to the side as a result of the current coalition between the United States and several Arab countries?

[Shamir] That was never an allegation of mine. I never made such an assertion. I do not think that Israel should always aim to hold center stage in every confrontation or crisis. We can live without it. Actually, in this crisis we are not a party to the confrontation that has developed. It is only the Iraqi tyrant who wants to drag us into this confrontation forcibly, and we have done nothing to help him succeed. That is all.

[Stern] What about the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Did you express Israel's concern over that transaction, and what was President Bush's response?

[Shamir] Certainly, certainly. I raised the matter. After all, this is nothing new. It has often happened in the past, but recently it has come to involve huge sums of money. He explained his approach to me. He thinks it is good and justifiable, that it does not conflict with Israeli interests, and that it will not endanger Israel. Well, that is exactly what we discussed, and we agreed to continue the debate on other levels. I indeed did continue the discussion with Secretary of Defense Cheney.

[Stern] What about the peace process? Did you agree that there was nothing to do for the time being and that one must wait?

[Shamir] We did not say that there was currently nothing to do. There is work to do. However, most of the work will have to wait until after the Gulf crisis is resolved because today it is hard to talk to the Arabs.

[Stern] What about an international conference, and the ideas currently discussed in the corridors of the United Nations? What was Bush's reaction to all this?

[Shamir] The UN debate was discussed in general terms. I saw that the President is not interested at all that it continue.

[Stern] I understand that there is a possibility that you may meet Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze here in the United States. If so, what issues will be on the agenda?

[Shamir] Yes we may indeed meet, and we have a lot of things to discuss with the Soviet Union. Whether they be aliyah affairs or issues connected to mutual relations and economic contacts, it is certainly worthwhile to talk to the Russians and to strengthen relations.

[Stern] Thank you sir, and have a happy Hanukkah.

Levi on Shamir, Bush Meeting, Peace Process

*TA1212184190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Interview with David Levi, foreign minister and acting prime minister, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor at Levi's office in Jerusalem on 12 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Mr. Acting Prime Minister, what is the impression you received of Prime Minister Shamir's talk with President Bush last night?

[Levi] The prime minister called to update me. The atmosphere during the meeting was good and warm, as the President expressed it. The prime minister's talk centered on the major issue that the entire world, and not only our two countries, is facing because of Saddam Husayn's aggression. Regarding the means to be employed by which to deal with this issue, more than just an understanding was reached. I am also glad that the President reemphasized to the prime minister what the secretary of state wrote to me a few weeks ago; namely, that the United States insists on the goals it set for itself: that aggression will not have the upper hand and that linkage will not be created under any circumstances. In other words, Saddam Husayn will not be allowed to mix two completely different matters here. Saddam Husayn will not emerge as the defender of anybody in this region; rather, the Americans will discuss and insist on the elimination of aggression, and the Palestinian issue will not at all feature in their talks.

[Ganor] Would you say that Jerusalem and Washington have fallen in line with each other and see eye-to-eye on these matters?

[Levi] I believe that your assessment is correct, that your statement on the issue is true.

[Ganor] As for the political process, now that the prime minister met with the President, are we expecting the arrival of a U.S. delegation in Israel?

[Levi] Look, if the demand is to have no linkage, let us not create a linkage ourselves. Still, I believe we have to conduct talks and coordinate our positions on the situation that will emerge after the resolution of this Gulf crisis. Israel is interested in advancing the peace process. I am engaged in efforts to this end, in accordance with the desire and aspiration of the government and people of Israel. We need not be prodded in that direction. Still, it is not aggression but our desire that should promote the peace process. There is a desire for this in Israel, and I hope this desire is shared also by the Arab and Palestinian side. A U.S. delegation led by Dennis Ross will arrive shortly, and I am preparing for the talks we will hold together.

Bush Vow Not To 'Sell Out' Said 'Worthless'

TA1312093590 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Dec 90 p A12

[Editorial: "A Rather Lukewarm Meeting"]

[Text] After the meeting between President George Bush and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, comfort can be found in the absence of evidence of hostility between the two men. Perhaps a new and better foundation for future relations has been established. The key word in the previous sentence is "perhaps," because one can never know.

At best, the meeting can be described as lukewarm. Shamir succeeded in strengthening the American inclination to veto the impending Security Council resolution advocating an international conference on the Middle East. Some believe this to be an impressive achievement. There is no room for celebration. Even if Shamir scored on the veto issue, the success is temporary because of the Gulf crisis. When the crisis is over, the United States will return to the Middle East peace process and even to the idea of international conference, if it deems it to be better than other proposals.

Mr. Shamir has accomplished even less on other issues. The commitment not to sell out Israel in an attempt to reach a settlement with Iraq is worthless. The moment the Americans realize that by selling out Israel they will solve the Iraqi problem, they will not hesitate to sell. This promise should not be taken more seriously than it was by the person who made it.

Mr. Shamir has not ended his Washington visit yet, and we should wish him to achieve no less in the time remaining. His achievement lies in the fact that Bush received him and has not, so far, surrendered to the wishes of some of his anti-Iraqi coalition members. We will soon know whether a real change in the relations between the two men has taken place. The test will be simple: Will Bush phone Shamir as often as he does the heads of other countries with which he has common interests?

Palestinians May Reconsider Relations With U.S.

TA1212151290 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
12 Dec 90 pp 1, 7

[Report by Khalid Abu-Akr]

[Text] Jerusalem—AL-FAJR has learned that if the United States votes in the Security Council in favor of a resolution to provide protection to the Palestinian people, then Palestinian figures in the occupied territories would be inclined to reconsider the decision to boycott the U.S. Administration and American officials.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem, said that the possibility of reconsidering the nature of relations with the United States is warranted, and he added that "this decision depends on the positiveness of the U.S. position on the Palestinian problem."

In a statement issued at the end of last May, the Palestinian figures declared their boycott of any official contact with the U.S. Consulate or any U.S. envoy, and said they would not respond to the invitations of the U.S. Consulate. That decision was in protest of the U.S. veto in the Security Council of a resolution calling for international protection for the Palestinian people in the wake of the Rishon Leziyyon massacre on 20 May.

Dr. Sari Nusaybah said that it would be appropriate for the Palestinian figures to reconsider their decision if the U.S. takes a positive position at the Security Council.

He added: "We have to continue studying all the developments and act accordingly. Any positive U.S. step toward providing protection to the Palestinians in the occupied territories should be looked upon positively by us."

Nusaybah pointed to the nature of the U.S. position and said: "Their position will determine the nature of movement on our part and whether a reassessment would be required."

He explained that if the Palestinian figures were to decide on resuming contact with the U.S. Administration, that should take place with the PLO's consent. The aim of the contact should be to call on the administration to cancel its decision suspending the dialogue with the PLO.

Envoy To Seek Official Invitation From Moscow

TA1312085490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
13 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] Next week, Israel's representative in Moscow, Arye Levin, will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and present his credentials as Israel's consul general in the Soviet capital. In the meeting, Levin will try to persuade the Soviets to invite Foreign Minister David Levi for an official visit to the USSR.

In a high-ranking meeting held recently at the Foreign Ministry, Levi decided to instruct Levin to try to arrange the visit. Officials who attended the meeting estimated that the Soviet Union will want to "reward" Israel, both for its humanitarian aid in the form of food consignments and for the public support expressed in Washington by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for the "suspension" of the Jackson-Vanik amendment restricting U.S.-USSR trade due to the freedom of movement limitations imposed by the USSR. [passage omitted]

Arens Convoy Stoned Near Jericho; None Injured

TA1212151890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The defense minister's convoy was stoned near Jericho as the minister's party was returning from a tour of the Allenby Bridge. No one was hurt. A big rock hit the first vehicle, and the intelligence officer of the local army brigade, together with his driver, chased the stone

throwers and managed to capture two of them. Our correspondent Gil Litman reported that the defense minister, the commander of the Central Command, and the coordinator of activities in the territories visited the Allenby Bridge terminal today and were briefed regarding the security situation in the Jordan Valley Rift.

IDF Said Working To Thwart Relief Efforts

TA1212194790 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Israel Defense Forces [IDF] authorities are endeavoring to halt attempts by the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] in the territories to introduce joint teams of UN, American, and West European officers who would serve as a buffer between the IDF and the residents and report to UNRWA on IDF activities in the territories. This was affirmed today by a government source to our correspondent Dani Levi.

Our correspondent adds that the security authorities are acting to prevent international organizations, such as the EEC and others, from opening offices in the territories. The security authorities recently thwarted an attempt by the British and French consulates to open branch offices in Gaza.

New Heads Named for Ground Forces, Intelligence

TA1212171290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Reserves Major General 'Imanu'el Sekel will be appointed commanding officer of the Ground Forces in place of Major General Uri Sagi. Maj. Gen. Sagi will be appointed chief of the Intelligence Corps and will thus replace Major General Amnon Shahaq. This was reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

'Imanu'el Sekel is 50 years old. He retired from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] approximately four years ago and became director general of the Israel Phosphates Company. In the IDF he served as deputy commander of the Ground Forces and the commander of an Armored Corps division.

Maj. Gen. Uri Sagi is 47 years old. He spent most of his military service in the Golani Brigade, going through the entire command chain from company commander and up to commander of the brigade. He also served as deputy commander of the Intelligence Corps. Our correspondent pointed out that we will learn of additional IDF appointments in the coming days.

Milo Foresees Continued Deterioration in Security

TA1112122690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo says that the new deployment of the Israel Police is based, among other things, on the assessment that the internal security situation will continue to deteriorate. In a session of the

Knesset Internal Affairs Committee, Minister Milo said that the potential for a deterioration in the situation exists not only in Jerusalem, but also in the Galilee and in the Wadi 'Ara region.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Police Commissioner Ya'akov Terner disclosed that a decision is in the works to deploy Civil Guard patrols in moshavim and kibbutzim within the boundaries of the Green Line. [passage omitted]

Report Shows Increase in 1990 Intifadah Incidents

TA1012135290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
10 Dec 90 p A2

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] An annual report issued yesterday by 'Uvda, the settlers' information center in Hebron, argues that the number of incidents in the territories, such as stone throwing and placement of stone barricades on roads, almost doubled in the third year of the intifadah.

According to the report, there were 39,411 such incidents in 1989, whereas in 1990 the number shot up to 71,754 incidents. The number of Jewish casualties in those incidents, both Army soldiers and settlers, rose from 1,274 in 1989 to 2,926 in 1990.

There was also a rise in the number of bombs planted (99 in 1990, as opposed to 66 the previous year) and shooting incidents (163 this year, compared with 82 the year before). A slight decrease was registered only in the number of arsons (358 in 1989, compared with 299 in 1990) and attacks with knives and blunt instruments in the territories (186 last year, compared with 173 in 1990).

According to 'Uvda, since the beginning of the intifadah there has been a total of 127,584 incidents in which 4,004 Israeli soldiers and civilians were hurt, and 234 explosive charges were planted; there were 404 attacks with blunt instruments and knives, 1,016 cases of arson, 171 shooting incidents, 58 instances involving the hurling of grenades and 2,691 cases involving the tossing of firebombs.

According to 'Uvda, since the beginning of the intifadah (up to 2 December 1990) 331 Palestinians were killed and over 1,000 were wounded by other Palestinians. 'Uvda is headed by Aharon Domb, and its findings are for the most part based on Israeli Army data, although on some points there are discrepancies between both their findings.

AL-FAJR Views Third Anniversary of Intifadah

TA1212190890 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
10 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "One Goal on Anniversary of Intifada: Liberty"]

[Text] Three years have already passed since the outbreak of the popular Intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories. The way things look now, the Intifadah will continue.

By now, it is clear to everyone that the Intifada was born in reaction to the seemingly unending Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Through the Intifadah, Palestinians have continued down the path of resistance, with only one goal in mind: to bring the Israeli occupation to an end and to establish an independent Palestinian state. Of course, while working toward that ultimate goal, the population making the Intifada sought to consolidate a Palestinian identity, and an infrastructure independent of Israel.

This was not easy. During 20 years of occupation, Israel has worked to penetrate every single life structure of the over 1.5 million Palestinians living under its control. It has controlled education, health care, the economy, travel, speech and artistic expression and has even worked to wipe clear the slate of Palestinian history, culture and heritage. After 20 years, Israel was well on its way to achieving much of its goal: the reduction of the Palestinian people to helpless subjects to be exploited and controlled without much difficulty.

Israel clearly miscalculated the Palestinian will to freedom and liberty. At the point when Israel seriously believed it had finally subjugated the Palestinians and reduced them to a heap of workers and consumers, the Intifadah broke out, bringing a wholly different message to Israel and to the world: that the Palestinians will no longer endure Israeli abuse and turn the other cheek. They will fight for their freedom, regardless of the cost.

Nor was this easy. But the will to make it possible was there. After three years of the Intifadah, Palestinians and the entire world, including the Israelis, are feeling its consequences and the changes it has wrought, and can anticipate its eventual outcome. The Intifadah has

brought a new reality into the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and a new life that is both undeniable and irreversible.

Many in Israel recognize this new reality and are calling on their government to deal with it positively. Instead of assuming the usual bullheaded, warmongering style, many Israelis are calling for dialogue with the Palestinians. They know that without this dialogue, matters will only get worse—and not only for the Palestinians.

Unfortunately, the Israeli Government is ignoring these warning bells. It is determined to continue pursuing a worn-out, outdated and medieval strategy of force to gain its desires. Force may win land and buy security in the short run, but it will never subjugate a proud nation determined to be free. However strenuously Israel works to control the Palestinian territories, one day it will be forced to recognize Palestinians' aspirations and dreams, and accept their need for liberty.

The Palestinians, through their Intifadah and the political program they accepted in Algiers in 1988, are telling Israel that their struggle is aimed at ending the occupation and creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; a state where Palestinians can live in honor, free from intimidation, massacres, humiliation, deprivation and banishment. They are asking for this only and nothing more.

Small Parties Limited on No-Confidence Motions

TA1012123290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Knesset House Committee has decided to change the regulations pertaining to motions of no confidence in the government. The amendment stipulates that small parties will be able to submit only three motions in the course of every Knesset session, which is comprised of a summer and winter convention. Any party or combination of parties with more than 10 Knesset members will be able to submit an unlimited number of no-confidence motions.

Algerian President Departs; King Comments*JN1212131190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[All correspondents are unidentified]

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince led the farewell line when Algerian President His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid left Amman at noon today. [passage omitted]

After the Algerian President's departure, His Majesty King Husayn spoke with correspondents:

[Begin recording in progress] [Correspondent] ...are they the beginning of fresh Arab efforts?

[Husayn] They are not a beginning, but are a continuation of joint efforts to further the interests of this nation and coming generations. There has been a convergence of views and assessments. I was gratified to have had the opportunity, along with all my brothers in Jordan, to welcome brother President Chadli Bendjedid, whom I have known as one of the better informed and more truthful of the Arab leaders. We will keep up our contacts and continue to work together in the interest of this nation, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: Do you hold out much hope for an inter-Arab dialogue on the Gulf crisis?

[Husayn] We stand very much for dialogue, and, God willing, there will be an inter-Arab dialogue. It does not stand to reason for things to continue the way they are.

[Correspondent] Have the two countries reached agreement on how to promote inter-Arab dialogue?

[Husayn] Our viewpoints are absolutely identical. He is making a tour, and I hope he will make more such visits in future. We will keep in touch and coordinate our moves, God willing.

[Correspondent:] [Words indistinct] for direct contacts between the parties to the dispute?

[Husayn] I think this is important, and there should be direct contacts between the parties to the dispute, and we hope to see this happen shortly.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: You have urged the convening of an international conference on the Middle East, when the UN resolutions on Kuwait begin to take effect. Would you elaborate?

[Husayn] We have been pursuing the international conference idea for years.

[Correspondent] I mean the convening of the international conference as soon as implementation insofar as Kuwait is concerned gets underway.

[Husayn] I stand for the convening the international conference as soon as possible regardless of any considerations and for the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict to be addressed. We have been promoting the international conference for many years. In my estimation, the circumstances are such that such a conference should be held and sponsored by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council with the participation of all the parties to the conflict—above all the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] But the UN Security Council has for the past three weeks been trying to pass a resolution on the protection of Palestinians, with the international conference being the sticking point. How do you rate the chances of the United States lending support to its convening?

[Husayn] This is up to the United States, but if it wants to assume a responsible role toward all concerned, and if we are talking about international legitimacy, the United States is supposed to meet this demand and to be positive. Let's wait and see. [end recording]

Press Statement Issued*JN1212171790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1602 GMT 12 Dec 90*

["Press statement" issued at the conclusion of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's 11-12 Dec visit to Jordan]

[Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria visited Jordan between 11-12 December 1990.

The Algerian and Jordanian sides held important talks on the tense situation in the Middle East, particularly the Gulf crisis. The two sides agreed there was no alternative to a peaceful solution to this serious crisis.

The two sides welcomed President Bush's initiative of 30 November inviting Iraq for a dialogue. They also praised Iraq's initiative to allow foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait to either stay or leave.

Algeria and Jordan also appealed to the parties that are advocating military solutions to abandon this approach, especially after the Iraqi and U.S. agreement to initiate dialogue between them, which is hoped to advance the cause of peace and security in the Middle East.

The two sides also agreed on the need for serious, sincere work to start an Arab-Arab dialogue, and to use all available opportunities to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis that embodies the security of the Arab nation, to safeguard the future of coming generations, and to work in accordance with the historical responsibility that everybody bears. They also called on the international community make a positive contribution to resolving the problems of the region, primarily the Arab-Israeli conflict—whose essence is the Palestine

question—within the context of international legitimacy, and on the basis that peace is an indivisible whole.

The two sides said that success of efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully will increase opportunities for a just, comprehensive peace in the region as a whole.

The two sides, moreover, hailed the intifadah of the Palestinian people, which has started its fourth year, stressing their support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to achieve their national legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and sovereignty on the land of their forefathers, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

King Comments on Visit

JN1212200990 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Dec 90

[News conference by King Husayn of Jordan with unidentified reporters in Amman on 12 December—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn has described President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Jordan as a continuation of joint efforts whose objective is the interest of this nation and the coming generations. This came in statements His Majesty King Husayn made to reporters at the airport after the Algerian president left Amman at noon today. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Has President Chadli Bendjedid's visit come on the basis of guarantees from Saudi Arabia or guarantees from other countries regarding proceeding toward a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis?

[Husayn] I cannot comment on that.

[Reporter, in English] [words indistinct] What kind of visit is this, and what is going to come out of it?

[Husayn, in English] It was a most welcome visit by the president, whom I have always found to be a concerned Arab leader, concerned for the Arab peoples and their future. And we had the chance to discuss all developments and found that our perceptions and our approach is one and the same. You would recall that two days ago—and not for the first time—we repeated our conviction that there should be an Arab-Arab dialogue to try to contribute toward resolving the problems within this region. And I believe that the president's mission is along the same lines. So I am very very happy indeed to have had the opportunity on behalf of all Jordanians to welcome a dear brother and a colleague, a man of honor, and at the same time, a wise man and a leader who is dedicated to the cause of the Arab people, and to have had the chance to have very extensive talks with him.

[Reporter, in English] What do you think about the evolution of the crisis. We go in peace now?

[Husayn, in English] This is what we have been working for all along. But I suppose we will have to wait and see.

And I think that if there is any sense in this world, if there is any logic, then obviously, the approach must be towards peace and the resolution of all problems in this region peacefully.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you called for activating the role of the Arab mediator in your latest speech. What has been the extent of response to this call?

[Husayn] I believe that our position and the position of the brother President Chadli is one and the same. He is seeking to crystallize such a move, such as our efforts for it. We will cooperate to make it a reality. This must take place. It is unacceptable for everyone in this world to hold dialogue except for the Arabs and their leaders.

[Reporter, in English] Is Jordan about to launch again in its mediation role soon?

[Husayn, in English] Well, we have always tried to do so from the outset regarding this particular crisis from the very first hours. And we have not stopped and we will not hesitate or spare any effort to encourage and enhance an Arab-Arab dialogue to resolve Arab problems and at the same time to fulfill our duty towards generations to come. [passage omitted]

[Reporter, in English] One more question, do you think the American-Iraqi dialogue will open also the Palestinian problem?

[Husayn, in English] I believe that the Palestinian problem is long overdue. And that is what I was saying just a while ago. And if you take the question of an international conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the United Nations, the participation of all parties to the conflict, including obviously the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, this has been our demand for years. And it is high time that it was met, regardless of anything else.

Badran Speaks on Visit

JN1212174190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1613 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said in response to a question by a deputy in parliament that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Jordan is part of the inter-Arab dialogue that seeks to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Prime Minister Mudar Badran said:

[Begin recording] Regarding His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to Jordan—and as is known through the media—he has come here to exert efforts for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. He is touring the region and many countries. I believe a press statement has now been issued on his visit. However, what I would like to tell this esteemed council is that, regrettably, foreign scheming is taking place to hinder inter-Arab dialogue. Regrettably, I also say that some of our Arab brothers are contributing to this to a certain extent. I also

say that the United States is hampering inter-Arab dialogue so that the Gulf crisis will remain unsolved, because inter-Arab dialogue means that the course the Arabs take is toward peace and a political and diplomatic solution. Therefore, if we let the political and peaceful solution stop and allow the dialogue to be only an American-Iraqi dialogue, that will mean military action. The United States does not want peaceful action to succeed, because it seems to want military action.

We have all heard, or some of us have heard, seen, or read, the statements made by the Israeli enemy to the effect that this crisis must not end in a peaceful solution, because Israel's objective is to destroy Iraqi power. This is its objective and it is afraid of the peaceful solution because this objective might not then be achieved.

Jordanian policy is very clear. It started on 2 August and it stipulates that the solution should be Arab and within the Arab fold. This subject has been explained in enough detail to my brother deputies in the meetings and talks with his majesty the king.

These efforts were aborted. However, they were taken up again by His Majesty Moroccan King Hassan. Consequently, there was a meeting attended by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. Others were supposed to join the meeting, but it was obstructed and aborted. Now, concerning President Chadli's mission, there is a third attempt to abort it. Therefore, forming popular and parliamentary delegations to explain this unequivocal position to the Arab and Islamic nation of this policy and the governmental efforts in this field is, I think, the best way the government and people could proceed. [end recording]

On the topic of Palestinians whom the Israeli occupation authorities are planning to deport from the occupied Arab territories, the prime minister said:

[Begin recording] I am to have a meeting today with the general commissioner on refugees, who has come to Jordan to draw up an emergency plan to receive deportees in Jordan, and to build a city [as heard], and other things—and some countries support this. Why? This person [the Palestinian] should remain in the place where he earns his living. This is the fact that we should stress. The son of the Gaza Strip has a land; he travels with a permit and a document. Why should he be prevented from returning to his country? He does not want to go to another country. He wants to return to Gaza only. He has a document, and yet he is prevented from going to the Gaza Strip. Is this not the very essence of discrimination? We must cooperate, therefore, in this matter to convince all the brothers, whether they come from the West Bank—and I have figures showing that the people who returned to the West Bank are about 17-20 thousand. [sentence as heard] We congratulate and salute them on their return. The kinfolk of the Gaza Strip should return to their country, because I will not be a party to evacuating the occupied territories. I know that humanitarian aspects dominate our thinking, and this is

right, but I also wanted, during this cordial session, to explain the dimensions and background of this issue. [end recording]

Talks Termed 'Our Last Hope'

JN1212091490 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
12 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Historic Responsibility"]

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid's visit here is attended by a gut yearning by the Arab masses, and official Arab determination—not least by the Jordanian and Algerian leaders—to promote an Arab-based solution to the Gulf crisis to head off foreign interference and forestall all attempts to arrogate our national decision-making and control our national resources.

Initiating an intra-Arab dialogue should be the first step down this road—an approach intensively pursued by Amman and Algiers since the crisis erupted. Both have argued that the importance of such a dialogue as a preliminary to the Arab parties to the dispute sitting around the conference table to address all their disagreements cannot be overstated. What with the U.S. and allied military buildup on Arab territory casting a shadow over our present and future, and a ferocious alliance hellbent on the destruction of our homeland and humiliation of our nation—a blustering enemy that so underestimates us as to have already set a date for engaging us in war and initiating its racist invasion—Arab leaders are dutybound to take serious, sincere, and prompt action. Tailored to suit our enemies' plans to frustrate our dreams and aspirations, and demolish our existence, the latest UN Security Council resolution could not have been more serious or worse.

Coming at such a critical moment, the Husayn-Bendjedid talks are our last hope, and if they should pave the way for a wider Arab dialogue, they will have met the aspirations of millions of Arabs to see a political settlement to the Gulf crisis whereby the Arab nation retrieves a self-image tarnished by its enemies, and we assume a deserved role on the map of a changing world marching toward comprehensive security, peace and justice

Along with other Arab leaders inclined toward a political settlement, the leaderships in Algeria and Jordan will be credited by history with having forestalled invasion, greed, and devastation—the consequences we will have reaped from our failure to deal with our problems for ourselves.

Editorial Urges Dialogue

JN1312093290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
13 Dec 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Joint Jordanian-Algerian Will"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's statements and the press statement issued after President Chadli Bendjedid's visit stress the need to start an inter-Arab dialogue

to find a negotiated peace settlement among the parties directly concerned with the Gulf crisis.

It is inconceivable for Arabs to reject the principle of a dialogue among themselves at a time when the entire world is holding a dialogue over the crisis in the Gulf, especially since this crisis has an Arab dimension that cannot be overlooked regardless of the international aspects of this crisis in view of the direct foreign military and political interventions.

The meanings stressed by the joint Jordanian-Algerian press statement that are related to the developments of the crisis in the Gulf reflect the deepest concerns of the Arab consciousness to spare this nation the evils of war and the disasters of foreign interventions, especially since the power which this intervention targets is considered a national reserve and a support for the Arabs in any of the possible pan-Arab battles.

Consequently, the joint statement stressed the need to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means and the need to open a deep dialogue among the concerned capitals, especially since a dialogue is about to open between Baghdad and Washington, which means there must be a corresponding dialogue among the Arabs themselves.

Although there are many issues that any possible dialogue between Iraq and the United States may cover, there are even more issues which cannot come under discussion between the Iraqis and the Americans, especially those issues related to territory, borders, oil, bilateral relations among the regional states, and other issues related to sovereignty on which no one party can deputize for the other, unless that party is in the position of one who does not have his free will because he is politically disqualified.

The Jordanian-Algerian will, which is now strongly supported by a broad Arab public opinion and many Arab leaders and officials, must continue in a suitably positive climate and on a political ground paved by good intentions and the joint desire to reach suitable solutions that would give each party its rights on the one hand, and prevent disaster from befalling the peoples and resources of this region on the other.

While we deeply believe in the inevitable triumph of the language of logic, and in the need to give priority to the supreme pan-Arab interests above all other temporary interests and considerations, we urge all brothers who believe in what the Jordanians and Algerians believe in to pool their weight to tip the balance in favor of the peaceful option and open the doors to an Arab dialogue—doors that are closed tightly at the moment.

Lebanese President, Delegation Arrive in Damascus

NC1212120790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Damascus at 1000 GMT today. He was welcomed on arrival by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials. The first round of talks began at 1100 GMT. The summit talks are expected to last more than one day.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss have also arrived in the Syrian capital.

Lebanese Summit Not Held; Al-Asad 'Indisposed'

NC1212174190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit did not take place today. Instead, President al-Hirawi made an inspection visit to al-Biqa', where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

According to official sources, the summit was not held because the Syrian president is indisposed.

Al-Hirawi Meets Vice President

NC1212165090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Statement issued by the Presidential Information Office in Beirut on 12 December]

[Text] Contrary to the press reports on the convening of a Lebanese-Syrian summit, His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi paid a private inspection visit to the al-Biqa' region, where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Syrian Army. The occasion provided an opportunity to review the situation at the Lebanese and Syrian levels.

Al-Zu'bi Returns From Meetings in Cairo

JN1212190890 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation returned to Damascus this evening following a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he headed the Syrian side to the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee. [passage omitted]

Paper on Bush Offer of 'Last Chance' Negotiations

JN1212202290 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
5 Dec 90 p 3

["With the Events" column by Ilyas Khuri: "The Gulf Crisis and the Last Chance"]

[Text] Events in the Gulf crisis are accelerating. The region is going through a precarious and critical period beginning now and ending on 15 January, the deadline set for Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait.

The UN Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force to liberate Kuwait and the subsequent announcement by President Bush of his proposal for the last-chance negotiations with Iraq before 15 January have signaled the start of a marathon race between war possibilities and peace prospects amid frenzied and intensive diplomatic activity aimed at warding off the danger to the region and the world.

By all standards and at every level, war would be a catastrophe with unpredictable results, especially for the Arabs. At worst, the war is going to cause the destruction of Iraq and the Arabian Gulf and produce tragic human, ecological, and social repercussions that will undermine Arab capabilities on the one hand and, on the other, pave the way for Israel to dominate the region, to impose its hegemony over it, and to proceed with its criminal legendary scheme to establish greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates without resistance or obstacles.

The Arab and international resolutions have created the legal, objective, and humanitarian framework for finding a drastic and redemptive solution to this crisis based on the need for a full and immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the reinstatement of the legitimate authority there, and the restoration of the pre-August 2 status. It has become clear that the international community, with a consensus unprecedented in history, is determined to implement its resolutions using all the means and capabilities at its disposal, whether through negotiations or force. Similarly, the international community would neither have dispatched this large number of troops to the Gulf nor enforced its economic blockade had it not been determined to liberate Kuwait.

At the same time, it has become clear that Iraq cannot confront the whole world by itself and that the Iraqi people, in the first place and the Arab nation second, will be plagued by adverse consequences.

Thus, the next six weeks offer the last and crucial chance. Iraq has the choice of either succumbing to international law or engaging in, and leading the Arabs and the world to a confrontation that would be the most serious since World War II.

Afghanistan

Diplomatic Relations Established With Venezuela

LD1212081390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0507 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 10, BAKHTAR—Afghanistan and Venezuela establish diplomatic relations on ambassadorial levels. The Information and Publicity Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the joint statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations at the embassy level between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Venezuela was signed on Dec. 3, 1990 at the UN Headquarters by ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Afghanistan and ambassador and permanent representative of the Republic of Venezuela at the United Nations. The text of the joint statement has been despatched under an official note to the UN secretary general for distribution to UN member countries.

By complying with the UN Charter, having interest in expanding friendly relations and mutually-beneficial cooperation based on the principles of inter-state law particularly equality of nations, giving respect to independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention into the internal affairs of each other as well as inspired by the principles of Nonaligned Movement to which both countries are members, the Governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Venezuela decided to establish their diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level starting from Dec. 10th, 1990, says the statement

The same source adds that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries is the outcome of the change in the stands of the world countries vis-a-vis the Republic of Afghanistan and support to the policy of national reconciliation by the internal community.

During the recent months due to the good offices of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the contacts made during the 45th session of the UN General Assembly with foreign ministers of some UN member countries, diplomatic relations were established with Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Namibia and Venezuela.

Prime Minister Meets UN Special Envoy

LD1112212990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister's Press Office reports to us that esteemed Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, had talks in his office this afternoon with His Excellency Benon Sevan, assistant secretary general and coordinator of UN economic aid to Afghanistan. Esteemed Khaliqyar congratulated Benon Sevan on his appointment as coordinator of UN humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan and hoped for expanded

and effective aid, expressing gratitude for the efforts of His Excellency Sadruddin Aga Khan during the period he held the office.

His Excellency Benon Sevan told the esteemed prime minister about the continuation of the good offices of the United Nations for a political solution of the Afghan problem, and on held with the course of talks and understanding among related sides. In response, esteemed Khaliqyar stressed the role of the United Nations in a political solution of the Afghan problem, mentioning and supporting the good efforts of Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. He wishes for momentum and acceleration of United Nations action to find a political solution for the Afghan problem.

Najibullah Sets up Mine Clearing Commission

LD1212180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, concerning the appointment of a national commission for clearing the territory of Afghanistan of mines and unexploded ammunition; read by announcer]

[Text] The 12-year war in the country, beside other material and moral losses, has created fields of unexploded mines and ammunition in various parts of the country which has disabled hundreds and have caused many injuries throughout the country. In order to protect the life of the compatriots and to clear unexploded mines and ammunition from the territory of Afghanistan, the Republic of Afghanistan asks for the assistance and cooperation of organs, political parties, social organizations, private investors, heads of the Tanzims [opposition organizations], the opposition commanders, Afghan personalities and all Afghans in this national, patriotic, and Islamic matter. In order to better coordinate the tasks, a National Commission for clearing the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan and unexploded mines and ammunition [has been set up] within the following framework:

Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan—chairman of the commission;

*Abdulqayum Nurzay, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan—deputy chairman of the commission;

General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense—member of the commission;

General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security—member;

Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of internal affairs—member;

*Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs—member;

'Abdul Bashir Roygar, minister of information and culture—member;

Ma'suma 'Ismati Wardag, minister of education and training—member;

Dr. Muhammad Anwar Shamas, minister of higher and vocational education—member;

Muhammad Sediq Saylani, minister of islamic affairs and endowment—member;

Fateh Muhammad Tarin, minister of returnees affairs—member;

Engineer Hayatollah 'Azizi, minister of rural development—member;

Meher Muhammad Ajazi, minister of public health—member;

Muhammad Hakim, minister of finance—member;

'Abdul Samad Qayumi, head of local administration organs—member;

Soraya, head of Afghan Red Crescent—member.

The commission is authorized to accept in their membership any number of heads of political parties, social organizations, private investors, heads of the organizations, commanders of the opposition, and outstanding Afghan personalities who declare practical cooperation with the national program. The commission is to take the necessary measures and report to the president's office.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Ershad's Arrest, Passport Seizure Reported

BK1212125890 Dhaka Overseas Service
in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Former President of Bangladesh H.M. Ershad has been arrested. He was placed under house arrest at Gulshan in Dhaka on Wednesday [12 December]. His wife and son are with him. After his resignation, the former president was staying in Sena Bhaban in cantonment. He was escorted by three police cars and three Army trucks from cantonment to Gulshan.

Meanwhile, the passports issued to former President Ershad, his ministers, and members of their families have been seized. This was stated by presidential adviser on foreign affairs, Fakhruddin Ahmed, while replying to a question by newsmen in Dhaka Wednesday afternoon. He said Bangladesh permanent representative to the United Nations, A.H.G. Mohiuddin, and second secretary of Bangladesh high commission in Australia, Jalal Ahmed, have already been recalled. The Foreign Office is also making a list of ambassadors and other diplomats

who have been appointed by the former regime disregarding normal procedure. The list will be ready for the elected government who will decide on their future.

More Arrest Warrants Issued

BK1312054090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0527 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 13 (AFP)—Bangladesh's ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his wife will be interned for 120 days under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974, a senior official said Thursday. He said Mr. Ershad, his wife Raushan and their eight-year-old son had been put under "safe custody" and no formal charges had yet been filed against them.

Mr. Ershad was arrested Wednesday and was moved from his home in the Dhaka Cantonment Military Garrison to a government-owned house in Gulshan diplomatic enclave.

Official sources said Mr. Ershad had signed papers to repeal the special powers act hours before he announced his decision to step down last week, but no action had been taken on the order. Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed said last week that the act would be repealed "soon."

Police sources said arrest orders for 16 more Ershad associates, including the former vice president Moudud Ahmed and former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed have been issued.

Mahmudul Hasan, home minister in Mr. Ershad's government, was put under house arrest Tuesday.

Meanwhile, sources said the passports of Mr. Ershad and his family had been seized and applications for new passports had been submitted to the home office.

A leftist political party late Wednesday filed charges of murder, misappropriation of funds and illegal seizure of power against Mr. Ershad.

The charges were filed hours by Hasanul Huq Inu, secretary general of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, part of the opposition five-party alliance, after a haggard Mr. Ershad, 60, was formally placed under arrest.

Mr. Ershad resigned after two months of anti-government unrest, further aggravated by his declaration of emergency rule on November 27. He handed over power to Mr. Ahmed, Bangladesh's chief justice, on December 6.

Economists Urge Steps To Overcome Crisis

BK0812073290 Hong Kong AFP in English
0720 GMT 8 Dec 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 8 (AFP)—Bangladesh's next government will have to take tough financial disciplinary steps

and slash spending in non-essentials to shore up the ramshackle economy it inherits, experts said Saturday.

They said ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his ruling group had "heavily mortgaged Bangladesh to international aid donors" and that future leaders, instead of hoping for leniency from lenders, should prepare for the lowest possible aid levels.

Dhaka University economist Sadul Reza said, "For the new government in Bangladesh the task of disciplining the runaway economy will be stupendous and nightmarish."

Smuggling, corruption and lavish spending have ruined the fragile economy of this South Asian country, Mr. Reza said in an interview, adding that future leaders would be wise not to make lavish promises. The professor, who monitored the spending of the Ershad regime for the past three years, said it had habitually painted a distorted picture of the economy to impress donors, maximise foreign aid and then resort to extra-budgetary measures to make up.

Acting President Shehabuddin Ahmed said in a nationwide address Friday that the country's economy was in a "serious state" and called on the people to "keep vigil so that the economic life was not obstructed by any means."

Another economist with a development agency estimated that the country's external debt had reached the equivalent of 50 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and the underground economy between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of GDP.

"Until this underground money (flow) is checked, although slowly so as not to scare people with that kind of cash, it will be next to impossible to firm up the economy," he said, requesting anonymity. According to available statistics the GDP stands at 15.3 billion dollars.

The economy of Bangladesh, among the world's poorest countries, has been undermined by devastating floods nearly every year and political strife since its turbulent birth in 1971.

During the recent mass upheaval against Mr. Ershad, his officials estimated that the country had lost more than 50 million dollars in one week of unrest, when factories and commercial institutions failed to operate normally.

Export losses and the inflationary effect of the Gulf crisis have pushed the fixed salaried group to the wall, which economists here said helped fuel the oust-Ershad campaign.

August's export figure fell to 129.13 million dollars from 162.50 million dollars the previous month, and since October business had been "very poor," sources said.

Khaled S. Ahmed, a director with a leading group of industries, said, "We support democratic campaigns, but if the cycle of unrest is repeated every year then it is virtually impossible to boost the country's export earnings."

Future leaders should learn from the past and leave economy and trade to experts instead of political appointees, he said, adding that Bangladeshi businessmen would be lucky to see any fresh foreign investment or significant contracts until elections are held. According to the Constitution, the interim government should hold elections by March 6.

Economists also predict that the local taka currency, which saw a 10 per cent fall in value since June, could be further devalued because of the political instability.

The Ershad government had devalued the currency under pressure from the Washington-based World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the national budget for fiscal 1990-91, put at 3.7 billion dollars, also closely followed the institutions' guidelines.

Mr. Reza said bowing to financial institutions would not help strengthen the economy, but what was really needed was to strictly follow guidelines in the context of "our socio-economic conditions," adding that a parallel thrust should be proper investment and implementation of project aid. But Mr. Ahmed said Friday that Bangladesh was "particularly dependent on foreign assistance" and hoped international development aid would continue.

In the industrial sector the picture is also grim, according to economists who say that the past regime, operating on nepotism instead of skill, cost the country substantially. Many industries like textiles and tobacco have closed down because of inefficiency or lack of market protection, they said.

Agriculture, the economy's mainstay, is this year's one bright economic spot with a bumper crop attributed to last season's minimal flooding.

India

Pakistan Envoy, Finance Minister Discuss Economy

*BK1312055690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The Pakistani high commissioner to India, Mr. Abdus Sattar, called on the Indian finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, in New Delhi yesterday. This meeting is part of the continuing dialogue for which prime ministers of the both countries have appealed to improve bilateral relations between the two countries. Radio Pakistan representative in New Delhi has come to know that they held talks about new efforts to increase economic cooperation between the two countries. The Indian minister told Pakistani high commissioner about special aspects of the Indian economy.

Judge Determined To Continue in Bofors Case

*BK1212163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Mr. Justice M.K. Chawla of the Delhi High Court has declared that he will continue hearing the Bofors

case. He told the packed court room today that the discontinuance of hearing by him will set a dangerous precedent. In an obvious reference to the remarks made by the council, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, yesterday, he said that he refuses to be cowed down by any observation.

Mr. Justice Chawla has been hearing the petition seeking quashing of the first information report filed by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] in the Bofors case. Yesterday, he reserved the order on the plea of Mr. Jethmalani that the judge should withdraw from the case. Mr. Justice Chawla has asked the council for the Communist Party of India-Marxist to begin his arguments tomorrow for impeding the party in the case.

V.P. Singh Doubts Bofors Probe To Continue

*BK1312104490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has expressed doubts over the intentions of the center on continuing further probe in the Bofors issue. Talking to newsmen in Belgaon in Karnataka today, he said that the transfer of CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] officers who, according to him, had achieved great success in the scandal is the clear message that further probe would be stalled.

Regarding the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue and the present low-key satyagraha [passive protest] by kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers], Mr. Singh said there is a definite shift in the policy of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

Petition Against Minister's Acquittal Filed

*BK1212162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] A revision petition against the acquittal of Dr. Sanjay Singh, the union communications minister in the Syed Modi murder case was filed today before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. The petition was moved by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]. Mr. Justice S. Sagir Ahmad of the Lucknow bench of the high court, who heard preliminary arguments by the CBI council on the petition, adjourned hearing until Friday.

It may be recalled that the sessions judge, Mr. Om Prakash Pradhan, on the 17th September had discharged Dr. Sanjay Singh and Amita Modi from the murder case while ordering the trial of other accused.

The Janata Dal-S [Socialist], general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, has said that the question of Dr. Sanjay Singh's stepping down from his post does not arise as no case is pending against him. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said the district judge of Lucknow has discharged Dr. Singh saying that no prima facie evidence is available to frame charges against him. Mr. Malaviya said the government has decided to file the revision petition after ascertaining the opinion of the

attorney general Mr. Ramaswamy, who agreed with the opinion given by his predecessor, Mr. Sohni Soharbji.

Prime Minister Speaks on Punjab, Shrine Issue

*BK1312101090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The government is launching a new initiative to resolve the Punjab problem and some decisions are to be announced in a week's time. This was disclosed by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, at a news conference at Balia in Uttar Pradesh this morning. He said the government believes in resolving the issue through negotiations.

On the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] issue, the prime minister said the talks between the two sides have begun and expressed the hope that these will yield the desired results. He said while the government believes in the policy of dialogue, it will not remain a silent spectator to acts of violence.

On Pakistan, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there are prospects of improving relations between the two countries and efforts are on in this direction.

The prime minister expressed regret over the stone throwing incident at yesterday's meeting at Balia, in which the union health minister, Mr. Shakilur Rahman, was injured. The incident took place when the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, was addressing the meeting. Earlier, Mr. Chandra Shekhar led the foundation stone of the collectorate building at Balia. From Balia, the prime minister visited Monghyr in Bihar from where he flew in to Patna. Before returning to New Delhi, at Patna Airport, talking to newsmen, the prime minister said that all acts of violence should be stopped if one wanted development. But, if the people kept on fighting among themselves, the country's progress will take a backseat. Mr. Chandra Shekhar made an impassioned appeal to members of all castes and communities to promote harmony and peace.

Janata Dal, CPI-M Concerned Over Violence

*BK1312093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] The general secretary of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, and the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, have expressed deep anguish at the unabated violence in several parts of the country, which is threatening national unity. Talking to newsmen in Belgaon today, Mr. Namboodiripad said that leftist and secular forces must come together to avert these threats. The Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, said communalism and communalization of politics have been responsible for the unfortunate happenings.

'Infiltrators' Among 13 Killed in Kashmir

BK1212160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 13 persons, including 10 infiltrators, were killed and 18 subversives arrested by security forces at different places since yesterday. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. The security forces challenged a group of infiltrators in the 5 kilometer border belt in Kupwara sector last night. The infiltrators fired on the security forces, ignoring the order to surrender. The security forces returned the fire, killing 10 of them.

Security Forces Apprehend Assam Militants

BK1312084890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] In Assam, security forces apprehended 21 more ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists yesterday from different parts of the state. With this the total arrest in the state since promulgation of president's rule has gone up to 577. Security forces have also recovered a large number of incriminatory documents and some vehicles reportedly snatched from private owners earlier by the extremists.

Iran

Rafsanjani Meets Islamic Movement Dignitaries

LD1212122190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] A group of Islamic dignitaries were received this morning by the president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this meeting, one of the visitors submitted a report to the president on activities that have been concluded toward further unity among Muslims and added: We, in this Islamic and popular movement, believe that the existing problems among Muslims must be resolved by themselves and foreigners must not be allowed to interfere in the affairs of Muslims and Islamic states. Stressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] special position in strengthening Islamic movements, he praised the principled and pride-inspiring stand of the IRI regarding the recent Persian Gulf crisis and said: We stress that an Islamic state must not be occupied by another Islamic state. Moreover, all foreign forces must withdraw from the Persian Gulf region.

Then, the president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing appreciation for the visit of the Muslim brothers from Islamic movements, invited them to further endeavor toward the unanimity and harmony of Muslims and added: you have started an appropriate movement as a religious and national duty, but you must accelerate your work.

The president, stressing the all-embracing efforts of the IRI, including official visits with heads of some countries and the recent trips by the foreign minister for the

purpose of averting war and bloodshed in the region, called the Iraqi insistence in remaining in Kuwait a mistake and added: The more it appears that the Iraqis will leave Kuwait under American pressure, it will be to the detriment of Muslims and the region and benefits imperialism and will result in the increased vanity of arrogance.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring also to the negative efforts of the Persian Gulf crisis on the intifadah, the Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine, said: Unfortunately, because of this crisis, the Palestinians too have sustained numerous losses, so that at these crucial junctures all Muslims must rise unanimous and united against the usurper regime of al-Quds and move toward the holy jihad of the innocent people of Palestine.

The president considered the presence of foreign forces in Islamic territories, especially in the territory of divine inspiration, to be a great threat to Islam, Muslims, and the region, and stressed the role of Islamic ulema and dignitaries in further alerting and informing the Muslim nations about the ominous consequences of this conspiracy.

Coverage of Sudanese President Al-Bashir's Visit

Commentary on Ties With Sudan

LD1112170190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran Could Play an Effective Role in Horn of Africa"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you dear listeners. Bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Sudan—and also the current conditions of the region, specifically the Persian Gulf crisis—constitute the main axis of the current talks between the General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation; Mr. Rafsanjani, the president; and other officials of our country.

Mr. al-Bashir, who arrived in Tehran yesterday at the head of a high-ranking delegation from that country, on a visit which is to last a few days, expressed his pleasure at visiting Iran and called on all Muslim nations to cooperate and adhere to the Islamic principles during this perilous point in time.

General al-Bashir's current visit to the IRI is significant, and is considered a turning point in the improvement and the consolidation of bilateral relations which could serve to end the cold stage of Tehran-Khartoum relations, enabling the two Muslim nations of Sudan and Iran—who both favor the sovereignty of Islam—to play a more active role in the world of Islam. The trend toward bringing the two countries closer to each other began sometime ago and has made significant impacts on various fields—political, economic, and cultural. The exchange of ambassadors between Tehran and Khartoum; economic cooperation

including road construction, agriculture, fishery, and land-reclamation projects in the desert areas of Sudan; and possibly meeting some of the oil needs of Khartoum by our country, have been catalysts in placing the trend toward bringing the two countries closer on a current and progressive path. The current visit by Mr. al-Bashir will be an important step toward expanding the relations between the two countries.

Another significant dimension to the Sudanese chairman's visit to Iran is seen in the unanimity of Iranian-Sudanese views in respect to international issues, specifically the Persian Gulf crisis. In condemning the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, both countries have reiterated the necessity of the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region.

The consolidation of the IRI's relations with Sudan lies within the framework of our country's foreign policy in terms of cooperation and coordination with Islamic countries, specifically with the Muslim countries of the Horn of Africa since the Muslims of the region—particularly the Sudanese people and nation—are under foreign pressures to reach a settlement [as heard]. The IRI, by using its political and economic capability, can play an effective and constructive role in improving the internal situations of these countries. In view of this fact, political analysts have described the current visit by Mr. al-Bashir to Iran as a new stage in bilateral cooperation, and as a prelude to the establishment of solidarity and practical cooperation between the two Muslim countries.

Broader Ties Encouraged

LD1212083490 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Khatami voiced Iran's willingness to expand cultural relations with Sudan.

He made the remark during the Tuesday session of the Iran-Sudan cultural-scientific committee attended by Sudanese Minister of Education 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad and that of culture and information Muhammad Khawjaji Salihin.

Welcoming promotion of mutual cultural ties, the Sudanese information minister called on Iran to extend scientific and cultural assistance to Khartoum.

The two ministers arrived here last Monday accompanying chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

Khamene'i, Al-Bashir Meet

LD1212174690 Tehran Television Service
in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, held a meeting this afternoon with Mr. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's

Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, and outlined with him the efforts made to bring Sudan's laws into line with the teachings of Islam and the Koran, and the movement of the Muslim people of that country toward Islamic goals as a source of pleasure for the Muslims of the world.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, and a number of ministers from the two countries. The guardian of the Muslims' cause [Khamene'i], referring to the adherence of the Sudanese nation to the effulgent Islamic religion, graciously said: Despite the opposition of arrogant powers, we hope that the movement which has been started in Sudan will lead to the implementation of the sovereignty of Islam in that country. The Muslim nation of Sudan can withstand the pressures exerted by the enemies of Islam. The presence of the people upon the stage and the strengthening of Islamic faith among them are of the utmost importance in this respect.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i elaborated on the pressures exerted on the Islamic Republic of Iran ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution and added: On the basis of the usual laws and superficial reasoning, it was imagined that the Islamic system in Iran would not be able to withstand these pressures. However, divine assistance, the heartfelt links between the people and the officials of the Islamic Republic, and the people's all-out defense of the system as the embodiment of their religion guided the country and the revolution towards their goals.

The guardian of the Muslims' cause pointed out that the apparent strength of the superpowers, especially America, is greater than their real strength. Stressing that the global Islamic movement is a serious and real issue, he graciously said: Despite more than 150 years of modern and all-out programs against Islam [as heard] today a great Islamic movement has been started all over the world as the result of which Islam has found new life in Africa and even in the heart of Europe, and the Muslims have become aware of their real dignity and identity.

The leader described Islamic Iran as an example of the great Islamic movement, and added: God Almighty has bestowed glory and honor upon the Muslims and has willed that Islam may be revived in the world. Therefore, all of us have a great responsibility for safeguarding this bounty. We are confident that with reliance upon God Almighty and by strengthening our ties with the people, we will benefit from God's assistance.

The leader of the Islamic revolution pointed to the necessity of the Islamic nations' confidence in their own strength and their own capability for bringing about a true cultural transformation. He graciously said: We have a very bright future ahead of us. The Sudanese nation is very close to the Iranian people due to its Islamic beliefs and its affection for the household [term normally used to describe the Shiite imams] of the

prophet of Islam, God's peace and benediction be upon him and his companions. It is expected that greater contact and cooperation may be brought about between the two countries.

Before the remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeini, Mr. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, expressed his pleasure at the opportunity provided for the meeting with the leader of the Islamic revolution. He said: The Islamic revolution is a very great extent; we have always looked upon it with a great deal of hope, and we regard it as a source of inspiration to us. The victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran gave us the confidence to continue our movement toward Islam, despite the difficulties imposed by our enemies, and to place our trust in God on this path.

The chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a modern Islamic country and as a source of support for the Muslims of the world. He continued: We have in practice started the Islamization of the life of the Sudanese people, and we intend to make use of the great experiences of Iran's great revolution along this path. By banning usury we have turned Sudan's banking system into an Islamic one, and we expect that the Islamic Republic of Iran will put its experiences in the Islamization of laws at our disposal.

Mr. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir described the pressures exerted on Sudan's government by America, Zionism, and their mercenaries in order to confront the Islamic movement in that country. Emphasizing the adherence of the government of Sudan to Islam and its teachings, he said: We firmly believe that the Muslims in different parts of the world have common rights and duties. We do not accept the present boundaries existing among the Muslims, and we are prepared to remove the obstacles on the path of the Muslims for entering and leaving Sudan. We have great confidence in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeini for bringing about unity among the Muslims, and we are prepared to play our role along this path. He described Islam as the only means for the salvation of Muslim nations, and added: The success of Western cultures is due to the weakness of Muslims and to colonialist opportunism. We believe that that salvation of the Islamic ummah lies only in their return to Islamic tenets, and for us civilization can only be Islamic civilization because Islam is the religion of science and civilization.

At the end of his remarks, the chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation stressed the preparedness of his government for steadfastness and fortitude along the path of the achievement of the Islamic goals.

Al-Bashir Comments on U.S. Forces

EA1212204890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, 12 December (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, has welcomed a call made by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the Islamic countries should seriously move to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He underlined the identical opinions shared by Iran and Sudan toward most regional and international issues, particularly those facing the Islamic nation.

He said during a round of Sudanese-Iranian talks here yesterday that the land and the power being threatened in the Gulf were Islamic land and power which must be protected, stressing that the American forces would not leave the region even if Iraq pulled out of Kuwait. He proved this by recalling the position of the American forces during the Korean war, forces which are still there. He further added that what increased the possibility of the American forces not pulling out of the Gulf region was the increasing importance of oil in today's and tomorrow's world. Information indicates that the oil in America and other countries will not last for more than (?20) years, whereas the oil reserves in the Gulf region could last for a hundred years [word indistinct].

The chairman cautioned that if the Islamic and Arab countries did not move quickly and with the required determination, the region would fall into the hands of the colonialists. His excellency emphasized the need to work earnestly to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem and that the prevailing influence in the region should be that of the Islamic countries only.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir urged that the present differences be transcended and that efforts be directed toward the Palestinian cause, which is the principal cause of the Islamic nation and which religion has made it an obligation to support, pointing out that this support would not be achieved under the present discord. His excellency also appealed to the concerned countries for a minimum degree of reconciliation (?if not) union, expressing regret at the prevailing situation in the Arab and Islamic countries, whereby some help the enemies of Islam to achieve their goals to swallow up the Islamic lands.

On what is going on in Sudan, his excellency explained during the session that Sudan was working diligently to rectify past mistakes and to (?establish) friendships with (?countries) and society [as received], as well as to build the Sudanese individual on the basis of integrity and chastity and to build his life on a religious basis.

He added that the Salvation Revolution was working on drawing benefits from the Iranian experience in Islamic rule and the Islamization of the law, policy, and economy, particularly of the banking system, which has already started to be implemented. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed that Sudan is ready for reforms because of what

it enjoys, starting with human potential [word indistinct] correct Islam and the material potential which the colonialists had worked to derail. He pointed to the national revolution's keen interest in promoting relations with fraternal believers, explaining that Sudanese-Iranian cooperation in this regard would generate many benefits in all spheres, foremost among which is safeguarding Islam and the Muslims from the danger posed by the enemies.

He pointed to the campaign currently being waged against Sudan, aimed against its Islamic orientation and culture and characterized by the view that Sudan is Islam's southern gate to Africa. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Comments on Visit

*NC1212193090 Tehran International Service
in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Sudanese President General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has emphasized that the purpose of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen the ties between the two countries at this serious stage which our Islamic nation is going through. This requires further cohesiveness and solidarity to ward off the dangers surrounding us as an Islamic nation that is the target of the powers of international arrogance.

In an interview with our radio correspondent during a news conference, he expressed his desire to benefit from Iran's experience in order to apply the rules of the Islamic sharia in Sudan.

In response to a question on the crisis in the Persian Gulf and Sudan's position toward this crisis, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that his country did not back Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He said:

[Begin recording] We absolutely do not and did not support the occupation of Kuwait. We believe that disputes among countries must be solved in accordance with the international laws within the international organizations, and that force must not be used in settling these disputes. [end recording]

Regarding the domestic situation in Sudan, particularly in the south, and the role of the foreign powers in this respect, Sudanese President Gen. al-Bashir disclosed that lately the rebel forces started to move about in areas to which they previously had no access and which we considered as secure borders. He added:

[Begin recording] Concerning the situation in northern Sudan and Sudan's political stability, we can say that we enjoy full political stability and the revolution in Sudan is strongly backed by the Sudanese people. However, there are leaders and figures who lost some of their privileges and prestige and whose interests were harmed by the outbreak of the revolution, and there are attempts to obstruct the march of the revolution, particularly by some ideologically oriented parties which are against Islam and the Islamic tendency. We consider them a weak opposition that has no direct effect on the regime's

course. A proof of this is the fact that the various youth and student organizations, which represent the most important sectors as far as stability goes, are now standing firmly in support of the revolution. As for the situation in the south, we are now being subjected to a ferocious onslaught. The rebel forces in the south are receiving unlimited support from all the forces hostile to Islam, including Western, ecclesiastical, communist, and other anti-Islam forces which fear the spread of Islam and the Islamic tendency and the establishment of an Islamic republic in Sudan. All these forces are now united in backing the rebel movement in southern Sudan. Since the outbreak of the revolution we have been successful in containing the rebel movement, but now, after a long lull, the rebellion has started to move very capably and from positions that were not previously open to it. Some countries opened their borders for the rebels to use as points of departure, and these borders used to be secure borders for us. The rebels have achieved some success by surprising us from areas to which they previously had no access. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Visits Arms Industries

*LD1212121190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] This morning General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Sudan's Revolution Command Council chairman, together with Torkan, minister of defense and support of the Armed Forces, visited various sections of the Arms Production Industries of the Defense Industries Organization. During this visit Kiani, head of the executive department and the director general of the Arms Production Industries, elaborated on the efforts of the industry's personnel during the eight years of the holy defense and toward eliminating dependency on foreign technology.

During his visit General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir became familiar with the huge potentials in the arms production industry and various sections of the defense industries' arms production. He requested the cooperation of the two countries in the arms production industry.

This morning the commander of Sudan's Navy met with the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic Guards Corps. He stressed the systematic and continuous relations of his country with the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to an IRNA report, issues of mutual interests and strengthening and expanding bilateral ties were discussed.

President, Al-Bashir Hold Talks

*NC1312070790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, Sudanese chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, held the second round of talks last night. High-level delegations from both sides were present.

During this session, the principled stance of the two countries on the Persian Gulf crisis was stressed. Political, cultural, economic, and technical committees presented the results of their meetings and reached an overall consensus for the two presidents.

At this session, the Sudanese ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture and irrigation, commerce, housing, labor, education and training, investment, and culture and information, as well as the Iranian first vice presidents and the ministers of culture and Islamic guidance, construction jihad, defense and support of armed forces, commerce, economic affairs and finance, and agriculture were present.

President Views Relations

LD1312133790 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, considering that you had two rounds of talks with the chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary National Salvation Council, would you please tell us your assessment of the two countries' future ties and the stands [of the two sides]. Taking into account the existing regional problems, tell us what they are?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the kind. On the future of the two countries ties, both countries would like them to expand. The people of Sudan, among Islamic countries, particularly in Africa, are perhaps more Muslim and revolutionary than all the peoples of all the countries, and they are nearer to the stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, whether global or regional stands. Therefore, for us Sudan is one of the countries that are agreeable to cooperate with.

The decisions that we have made here can be very effective in expanding ties since we have experiences that can be quite fruitful for the Sudanese. For example, the most suitable place now for utilizing the experiences of the Construction Jihad is in Sudan; such is also the case with industrial and agricultural activities, operations which we were successful in performing through our own efforts during these [last] ten years. These are experiences that the Sudanese can well put to use; we are also willing to present them to other Muslims.

Our stands on regional issues also coincide. The two governments are both against the occupation of Kuwait as well as against the presence of foreigners, and we both believe the solution should be found through political means and talks. We also believe that, for the Palestinian issue, the Islamic forces must unite to save Palestine. Again, since in Africa they are seeking an Islamic movement and since the African Muslims are the most hard-done-by Muslims of the world—all the people of Africa are like that, the Muslims more so—we have great scope

for cooperating with each other and we hope to continue the task that we have started together.

As far as regional issues are concerned, it was decided that our efforts and those of Sudan should expand so that the danger of war is averted. I believe that this visit was effective for this purpose because Sudan's leader also has possibilities to put pressure on one party to accept the righteous stand.

President Criticizes Rebels

EA1212190290 *Khartoum SUNA in Arabic* 1030 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, 12 December (SUNA)—'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian president, has deplored the enemies' attack against southern Sudan and described it as an act of insolence. He said that Iran has noted the enemy's campaigns against Sudan, just as it has noted the erroneous stance of Islamic countries toward this aggression. He hinted that what is going on in this respect comes within the framework of imperialism's objectives to achieve its goals.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was speaking here yesterday in the preliminary round of talks between the Iranians and the Sudanese, under his and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's chairmanship, the Revolution Command Council chairman, further stated that the situation required that countries join hands and prevent foreign forces and foreigners from interfering in their affairs, pointing out that foreign forces uphold their [word indistinct]. He pointed to the American war against Iran in which they set fire to the vital centers in the Gulf, shot down a civilian aircraft carrying 50 passengers, and attacked ships and fishing boats. The Iranian president stressed that the Islamic countries should at this time, and with good intentions, work to confront what is going on. He elaborated that this would not take place except through cooperation and solidarity among all concerned.

Communique Urges Kuwait Withdrawal

LD1312141890 *Tehran IRNA in English* 1045 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—A joint communique was issued Thursday at the end of the visit to Tehran of the Chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir in which the two sides deplored Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

Stressing the dangerous consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on the security and stability of the regional countries, the two sides called for the continuation of efforts to ward off the threats of war whose victims they believed would be Islamic countries, and to find peaceful ways within an Islamic framework and away from foreign intervention to settle the issue.

They emphasised the need for Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait and that of foreign forces from the region.

Referring to the importance of the Persian Gulf region, they stressed that its security must be provided by regional countries away from any foreign influence or interference.

Condemning the occupation of Palestine and al-Aqsa Mosque by the Zionists, they called for a firm encounter against the conspiracy of the Jewish influx to the occupied Palestine. They also voiced support for the intifadah and the Palestinians' struggle to achieve their legitimate rights and liberate the occupied territories and establish an independent government.

The Iranian side stressed the sovereignty of the Sudanese Government on the entire country and regarded the problem of southern Sudan as a colonialistic plot against the Islamic identity and national sovereignty of Sudan.

Announcing support for the unity of Lebanon and cancellation of sectarian system in that country, the two sides stressed the necessity of supporting the Islamic resistance against the Zionist aggressions and called for unity and solidarity among Islamic, national and liberation seeking forces of Lebanon. They also called for the support of Islamic countries in order to strengthen the anti-Zionist resistance in all dimensions.

Expressing respect for the legitimate rights of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and their cultural and Islamic identity, they voiced support for the formation of an independent, non-aligned and Islamic government based on free elections.

The two sides condemned interference of global arrogance and Zionism in Africa and called for unity of all African and Islamic countries to counter this major threat and urged mobilisation of all facilities to root out the influence of Zionism.

They declared support for the righteous campaign of the South African people until the complete annihilation of apartheid, release of all political prisoners and the restoration of the right by the African people to determine their fate.

Stressing mutual ties, Iran and Sudan called for the formation of joint commission to continue and promote ties in the framework of political, economic and cultural agreements and holding of meetings in Tehran and Khartoum.

Al-Bashir invited President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to officially visit Sudan which was accepted.

Al-Bashir heading a ranking delegation arrived here Monday on a 4-day official visit at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During two rounds of talks, he discussed mutual ties as well as regional and international developments with his Iranian counterpart in a friendly atmosphere.

Al-Bashir Praises Results

LD1312112890 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir left here Thursday morning at the end of a 4-day visit and was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International airport by his host President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

General al-Bashir sent a message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani while leaving Tehran thanking him for the hospitality. He also wished prosperity and success for both Muslim nations.

Speaking to IRNA at the airport both al-Bashir and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described visit as a "turning point in expansion of bilateral cooperation." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, cultural and economic agreements were concluded between Iran and Sudan before the departure of the delegation.

The cultural agreement was signed by Iran's minister of culture and Islamic guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami and his Sudanese counterpart Muhammad Khawjali Salihin.

Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh and Sudan's Minister of Housing and Labour Sulayman Abu-Salih signed the economic agreement which defines the scope of bilateral cooperation in technical, agricultural, trade and economic fields.

Algerian President Arrives for Gulf Crisis Talks

LD1312135490 Tehran IRNA in English 1313 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, heading a delegation, arrived here from Baghdad today on the third leg of his Middle East tour.

Algeria has initiated talks with heads of several Middle East states in a bid to find a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis before the Security Council's deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait (January 15) expires.

Bendjedid started his tour from Amman and went to Baghdad, where he called for Arab solidarity against foreign threats. He is to visit Oman, Saudi Arabi and probably Syria after Iran.

Bendjedid's initiative has received a cold welcome from Saudi Arabia since Riyadh believes that the Persian Gulf crisis can only be solved by Iraq.

The Algerian delegation including Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali, was welcomed at the Mehrabad Airport

by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a group of other Iranian officials.

This is the first visit to Tehran by the Algerian president since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Iran, Turkey To Hold Talks on Gulf, Relations

LD1212134690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1102 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Doctor Velayati, our country's foreign minister, will arrive in Ankara today at the head of a delegation. The visit will last for two days and the two sides will be discussing bilateral issues and the Persian Gulf crisis.

After last month's trip taken by Mr. Turgut Ozal, Turkey's president, to Tehran, and his talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr. Velayati's visit to Turkey is a continuation of consultations which have been going on between the two countries during the past months.

These talks are aimed, on the one hand, at expanding and deepening bilateral relations, and on the other at an effort to better understand the regional effects of the Persian Gulf crisis. It is also expected that the preliminaries and agenda for the future talks to be held between the presidents of the two countries in Ankara would be set down in the course of Mr. Velayati's meetings with high-ranking Turkish officials.

In spite of the fact that important trade and economic contacts exist between Turkey and Iran, and that the eighth round of the Iran-Turkey economic-trade commission in Esfand last year [January-February 1990] regulated the conduct of economic relations between the two countries for the current year [ending 21 March 1991], Mr. Velayati's trip to Turkey should be explicitly seen as a chiefly political trip. Priority will be given specifically to the issue of the Persian Gulf crisis, just as was the case when Mr. Ozal visited Tehran.

Iran and Turkey are among Iraq's neighbors; any political, military, and strategic developments in that country fall directly into the framework of security and strategic considerations of Tehran and Ankara. Although Iraq prompted international reaction to its occupation of Kuwait, if it could escape [the consequences] in a way desirable to Baghdad, the strategic balance of the region will in effect be upset, a situation which, once raised as a prospect, will definitely incite the sensitivities of Iran and Turkey.

In spite of the presence of international forces in the Persian Gulf and the threats posed in the event of a war, and also the resolutions of the United Nations which have endorsed the condemnation of the aggression and permitted the use of force against the occupation of Kuwait, the Iraqi Army continues to remain in Kuwait, and according to reports intends to alter the boundaries.

It should be noted that there is a big gap between the impossible and the improbable. That Iraq may give into these kinds of pressures, or that war may be the necessary consequence of this kind of resistance, is not impossible though it seems improbable. [as heard] If, on this assumption, it is thought that the peaceful and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait is improbable, then the need to find a middle course, and that which is known as a compromise, will manifest itself. If a political deal is realized, then territorial concessions will be the focal point of these deals. This is exactly the point which gives rise to the concern of the neighbors.

Even though in political remarks the granting of concessions is termed as rewarding aggression and is being denied, in any case the adoption of a common stance among countries which give serious considerations to these issues is considered to be important.

UN Resolution Authorizing Use of Force Examined

NC1012191290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
1 Dec 90 p 2

[Political commentary by Abolqasem Qasemzadeh: "A Resolution With a License To Attack"]

[Excerpts] The 12th resolution against Iraq has been approved by the UN Security Council. In this resolution, which is being termed unprecedented since the Korean War, the use of all kinds of solutions—including that of military force after 15 January, the date specified for driving Iraq out of Kuwait—has been declared legitimate. [passage omitted]

However, the opposition of the American people and House of Representatives to this resolution, but not to the principle of driving Iraq out of Kuwait, revolves around two axes:

First, that the economic embargo has been effective up until now and needs more time to have a deeper effect, so that along with a political embargo it can motivate Saddam to retreat from his stance.

Second, according to the remarks of the U.S. President and military commanders, that the tactic of military attack will be a limited one in which a large part of Iraq's mechanized military capability—especially its airforce, missile unit, and artillery—will be destroyed in the shortest possible time, which in practice will not leave enough scope for any large-scale movements of the ground forces. They have termed such an onslaught a swift, multi-pronged blitzkrieg.

However, the U.S. House of Representatives and the senators have questioned the efficiency, the practicality, and the success of the military tactic since the chance of success will not be too great as Iraq's massive military strength and the extent of Iraq's deployment of forces will not permit such a tactic to be totally successful.

The U.S. politicians most important objection stems from their fear of a long war accompanied by a high death toll, instead of a swift—even though unsuccessful—onslaught. This brings to mind the common adage that it is easy to begin a war, but far harder to predict how or when it will end. They have also termed war imminent in the event of Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait after 15 January. In interviews with U.S. and British military commanders in Saudi Arabia, the Western mass media is already preparing its public opinion to expect the killing of their soldiers. [passage omitted]

Iraq's reaction to the approval of the UN Security Council resolution, which its UN representative termed illegal, was to refuse to retreat from its previous stance; thus the only path open to it is to go to war. With the declaration of such a stance by Iraq, some people believe that Kuwait will remain occupied by Iraq and that Saddam will not pull out. They base their allegations on Saddam's resolute stance.

Others do not rule out the possibility of a coup d'état in the 45 days remaining until the time when war can be declared. This speculation also seems unrealistic if we consider the situation prevailing in Iraq.

Apart from these two views, some state that a new development will emerge in the last few days before the deadline for the implementation of the resolution, on the basis of which Saddam will amicably pull out of Kuwait. This amicable pullout may or may not include a gift to Saddam of the al-Rumaylah oil well and the Bubiyan Island, but he may be asked to hold a news conference on this amicable settlement with a simultaneous withdrawal from Kuwait. Thus, the situation will move toward a peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis in the second part of January, which will be marked by increased travel to Baghdad and the departure of a large number of hostages from Baghdad.

The possibility of a military clash before 15 January, which has been selected by the West in view of the advent of the Christian New Year and the climatic conditions of the region, is also being considered in contrast to the peaceful settlement mentioned above.

What is certain, however, is that all eyes are riveted on Saddam's decisions at this juncture, and in a way the initiative is in the Iraqi president's hands, at least until 15 January. After this date, the two sides of the imbroglio—the United States and Iraq—will have burned their bridges regarding a retreat of any kind and will have staked their all on this gamble. The only path open to them will be that of "war" as the sole means of resolving the crisis, especially since George Bush continues to beat the war drums and has stated that this is the last opportunity for Iraq; he has also induced Syria and Egypt to chant the war threat together with him.

Another problem in the crisis is that none of the countries can, or want to, mediate in resolving the crisis. The adoption of consecutive resolutions has also placed the

UN secretary general in a position whereby he cannot maneuver toward an amicable settlement. It is only once a war has started that, after the initial stages when the outcome of the blows and damage emerges, that some country may enter the arena for mediation. However, in those circumstances the atmosphere will not be clear enough for an immediate settlement initiative.

The unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait is being specified as the first step toward resolving the Persian Gulf crisis. If Iraq had wanted to evacuate from Kuwait after some mediation, it would have done so even before the approval of the UN resolution against it, or it would have given an indication of its willingness to accept an amicable solution. [passage omitted]

This set of circumstances is moving toward a war, a multi-pronged onslaught, more than toward an amicable rapprochement. Much has been said regarding the effects of war, the extent of its toll, and the changes it will bring about in the region. However, all this battle array—a deployment of more than 500,000 American soldiers, more than 100,000 Syrian and Egyptian soldiers, 30,000 British soldiers, various military equipment, as well as a large segment of the U.S., British, and French naval forces—will not be very conducive to political overtures. Even though Saddam will have already reached the fourth stage of his digestion of Kuwait by then, he will still feel the choking sensation around his throat.

The repercussions of the catastrophe of war will be manifest more than ever in the great loss of life and devastation which the people of the Persian Gulf region will suffer. The termination of the crisis, whether amicably or through war, will place new levers at the disposal of the United States and its allies, and the situation in the region will gradually become more complex and fraught with greater dangers than it is now.

Tehran Views Iraq's Decision To Release Hostages

*NC1312154890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0600 GMT 13 Dec 90*

[Political commentary from "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Excerpts] According to news agency reports, the Iraqi Government's decision to release the Western hostages in Baghdad and Kuwait has been accompanied by Baghdad's and Washington's announcements of the dates for their direct talks. [passage omitted]

The announcement of the direct talks between Iraq and the United States, and the possibility of some compromise between the two sides, has generated various reactions. The al-Sabah family seems to be the most apprehensive. The Kuwaiti foreign minister has stressed the need for Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, and has warned against any compromise between the United States and Iraq.

On the other hand, in his message to the Palestinian nation on the third anniversary of the intifadah, PLO

leader Yasir 'Arafat expressed the hope that Iraq's decision to link regional crises is not a maneuver or an act of deception.

These attitudes are evidence and indirect expressions of the apprehension among the region's political circles over the upcoming Baghdad-Washington talks. On the other hand, the release of Western hostages from Iraq and Kuwait is being interpreted as a calculated move by Baghdad to clear the path for talks with the United States. [passage omitted]

Oil analysts believe that the White House's decision to recall its diplomats from Kuwait indicates that the possibility of a U.S. attack on Iraq is greater than ever. Moreover, Turkish newspapers have reported that the Turkish Government has dispatched more than 100 trucks laden with military equipment to the southeastern parts of the country in the past few days.

According to these reports, the Turkish Armed Forces have set up a mobile hospital in Batman, near the Iraqi border. Turkish military sources state that the objective of these movements is to reinforce Turkey's military strength in the southeastern regions of the country to enable it to repulse any sudden attack.

In addition to the reports on Turkish troop movements, eyewitnesses have observed a noticeable increase in the number of military cargo planes arriving at the U.S. military base in Incirlik, near the city of Adana, over the past few days.

Nevertheless, it would be premature to speculate about the future course of events. Iraq's release of the Western hostages, the announcement of dates for direct political negotiations between Baghdad and the United States, the U.S. military movements in Turkey, and the recall of U.S. diplomats are the main news stories from the region over the past few days.

Most countries have adopted a wait-and-see policy. It is the outcome of the talks between Baghdad and Washington that will determine the shape of future political-military developments in the region and will indicate whether the crisis is to be resolved peacefully or whether the lever of the West's military pressure against Iraq will assume a more tangible form.

Pilgrims Reportedly To Bring Arms to Iraq

TA1212164090 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Informed political sources in Tehran say that next month the Islamic Republic will allow pilgrims who wish to visit the holy shrines in Karbala and Najaf to travel to Iraq. According to reliable sources, the leaders of the regime ruling Iran intend to send with the pilgrims large quantities of food, medicine, and goods required by Iraq.

***Commentary Views Cooperation With Pakistan, U.S.**

9EAS0259Q London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 12

[Text] After the Soviet Army moved into Afghanistan, Pakistan orchestrated American policy to get the Soviets out of Afghanistan. Although the mysterious death of Ziaul Haq and the ascendance to power in Pakistan of Benazir Bhutto caused a turn of several degrees in Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan, now with the pages turning again in Pakistan and the rise of the Islamic Front, it appears that everything is reverting to the original condition.

The army has a more important position than the government in Pakistan, especially where the support of the Afghan Mujahidin is concerned. Even so, it is preferable to the army that there be coordination between its policy and that of the government. This coordination was complete in the time of Ziaul Haq. Differences arose during Benazir Bhutto's tenure as prime minister, but now that Nawaz Sharif is prime minister, the Islamic Front's candidate is in the running again.

In the course of this, the visit to Pakistan by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the legendary commander of the Panjshir Valley Afghan mujahidin, though little noticed in the heat of the Persian Gulf crisis, is thought to have been a turning point in the final arrangements to overthrow the Kabul regime.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who is a Tajik and whose mother tongue is Persian, not only met in Pakistan with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, he also held relatively lengthy meetings with the American ambassador and the Islamic Republic's ambassador. For example, to reassure the Islamic Republic concerning the possibility of a return by Muhammad Zahir Shah, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said in a Peshawar news conference that there is no place in Afghanistan for the return of Zahir Shah (the Tehran regime is quite sensitive about the possible return of Zahir Shah!)

It now appears that the Tehran regime is showing a greater interest in cooperating with America and Pakistan to reach a "Western" solution in Afghanistan. In this regard, political observers consider noteworthy the visit to Iran by two leaders of the Afghan mujahidin, Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and Mir Sayyid Ahmad Gilani. Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, who is also the president of the Afghan mujahidin interim government, said in Tehran: We are in need of friendly neighbor countries, especially Iran and Pakistan. Informed sources say that with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's negative statements about Zahir Shah on the one hand and the heavy damage that has been done to the radicals in Iran on the other, the path has become smoother for the Islamic Republic to cooperate more actively with Pakistan and America concerning Afghanistan.

Cooperation Between Two Azerbaijanians Expanding91AS0258I London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 4*

[Text] The people of Soviet Azerbaijan visited the East Azerbaijan Province Industrial Production Exposition, which opened on 11 November in Baku, and learned of this province's industrial advancements. According to reports from Soviet Azerbaijan, at the Azerbaijan-Iran commercial exposition in Baku various kinds of industrial and semi-industrial goods, agricultural machinery, dried fruits, handicrafts, and comparable goods produced in various parts of Azerbaijan were displayed. On the eve of the start of the exposition and during a visit by an Iranian economic delegation to Soviet Azerbaijan, RADIO BAKU announced that during its stay of several days in that province the Islamic Republic's delegation prepared several commercial agreements between the two countries, and on that basis henceforth the two neighbor provinces will expand their commercial exchanges and activities.

RADIO BAKU added: The Province of East Azerbaijan and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan will cooperate in the exchange of raw materials for the aluminum production industry, the use of the region's mineral waters, construction stone and various stone materials, stone-cutting machinery, and in the construction of prefabricated housing units.

Flag Raised in Occupied Khosravi After 10 Years91AS0259T London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 12*

[Text] Khosravi—The last city on the Iran-Iraq border, in the Qasr-e Shirin area, which was occupied by Iraqi forces for 10 years, was recently turned over to Iran, and on Saturday, 10 November, the Iranian flag was raised over a newly-built Gendarmerie post. During their occupation of Khosravi, the Iraqis razed all the buildings in this city, including the Gendarmerie club building and the customs building.

Commentary Examines Merging of Army, Guards91AS0259R London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 12*

[Text] The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Plan and Budget Organization were charged by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, to form a joint commission to produce a comprehensive project to economize without undermining the Five-Year Plan. In their first report, they concluded that the biggest factor in the heavy and excessive expenditures is the so-called "parallel" organizations, which are among the sickly products of the Islamic revolution.

In the government there are now 15 duplicated organization, all of which draw from the government's budget,

and which do the same jobs under separate managements. Worse than this, sometimes they interfere with one another in ways that actually keep work from getting done. The most important of these parallel organizations are the Ministry of the Reconstruction Jihad and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Revolutionary Housing Foundation and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Education and Training and the Literacy Crusade, the Social Security Organization and the Imam's Relief Committee... foundations such as the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees, the Martyrs Foundation, the 15 Khordad Foundation, the War Veterans [self-sacrificing devotees] and the War Victims Foundation, and now the Foundation for Released POW's.

However, the two parallel organizations the commission emphasized the most in its report were the army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC].

Consolidating these organizations and putting them under one management, although apparently a most reasonable proposal which no one can openly oppose, is in practice so much at odds with the interests of factions and groups opposed to each other that so far all efforts to do this have been without result. Mir Hoseyn Musavi made the first attempt in this regard. He wanted to consolidate the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Reconstruction Jihad, but could not do so. Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the second attempt, but got only as far as consolidating the army and the IRGC into the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics and appointing a non-military minister for it, but these two armed forces continue to maintain their full independence.

It is said in Tehran circles that, despite this, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has not given up on his goal to consolidate the two armed forces because, due to the great savings it would bring, this task has a political importance for Hashemi-Rafsanjani that is much greater than its financial importance.

Population Estimated To Reach 100 Million91AS0286H London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 4*

[Text] "The increase in population, with the rate of population growth more than doubling, has meant that each year more than two million people are added to the population. If food cannot be produced domestically for this additional population, it will have to be obtained through imported agricultural crops." This statement was made recently by Jalal Rasul, the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of agriculture, at a national food industries congress. In part of his talk, he said: Despite this, the sharp increase in population and the government of the Islamic Republic's commitment to stabilize prices and procure the basic food products have significantly increased the demand for the major agricultural crops at a much higher rate than the growth of domestic food production, and for this reason, in recent years, imports of major agricultural items have increased significantly.

The official added: At the end of the Five-Year Development Plan, we will be relatively able to procure food for the people. Even so, this success is mainly contingent upon the implementation of the policy to renew the birth rate and control the population, under which ultimately the average annual population growth will drop to 3.2 percent. Otherwise, if the country's population continues to grow at a rate of 3.8 percent, in 1385 [21 March 2006-20 March 2007], the country will be faced with a population of more than 100 million, and in that case there will be a need for 14 million tons of wheat alone for the country's consumption.

***TEHRAN TIMES Accused of Foreign Ties**

91AS0286B London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 2

[Text] While it is being claimed in Tehran that the regime's hardline and moderate factions have declared a sort of cease fire after the recent severe clashes, the daily attacks continue in the journals affiliated with the two factions. For example, the competition and struggle between the TEHRAN TIMES, published in English in Tehran, and KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, published abroad with several pages in English, has reached a peak.

In its latest issue, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I accused the TEHRAN TIMES of "making reports about Iran available to the foreign media before they are officially published in Iran." The reason for KEYHAN-E HAVA'I's latest attack and criticism of TEHRAN TIMES is that the ASSOCIATED PRESS reported the appointment of Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, the Islamic Republic's former ambassador to Libya, as the regime's ambassador to Baghdad, before it was published in the newspaper itself. The ASSOCIATED PRESS got this report by FAX at its Nicosia office, and gave its date of publication in the TEHRAN TIMES as 18 October, but this report was not in that issue of the newspaper.

KEYHAN-E HAVA'I wrote: This report was made available to the ASSOCIATED PRESS by the TEHRAN TIMES at a time when the nation's news centers were unaware of it and the action had not passed through all the legal steps, meaning the proposal to appoint the ambassador by the foreign minister and the approval of the president.

KEYHAN-E HAVA'I called this act by the TEHRAN TIMES "obscure" and "questionable" and added: The actions of this newspaper constitute indecent practices.

Before this, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, which usually reflects the views of the Hezbollahi faction, has also accused the TEHRAN TIMES of publishing reports on the release of an Irish hostage in Lebanon, the appointment of the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Germany, the trip by the Iraqi deputy foreign minister to Tehran, and the reopening of the Iraqi embassy in Tehran, before they were released officially by the authorities.

While everyone knows that the TEHRAN TIMES's source of news is the office of Velayati, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's foreign minister, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I has called for the identification of the sources who make these reports available to foreign news agencies, consequently "exerting a negative effect on the nation's interests!"

***Moderate Factions Moving Toward Political Control**

91AS0297A Karachi DAWN in English
1 Dec 90 p 7

[Article by Ahmed Vahdatkhan: "Boost for Iran's Moderates"]

[Text] As Iran moves further from Islamic fundamentalism in its foreign policy, the country's religious institutions are undergoing a gradual change which eventually could see a total takeover of political power by moderate factions.

Recent elections for the Assembly of Experts which chooses Iran's spiritual leader and monitors the application of Islamic laws, resulted in the elimination of a large number of radical mullahs from the body. They have been replaced by supporters of spiritual leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Despite open opposition from fundamentalists that the new assembly represents what they call "the American Islam", and a low turnout of voters, the body is now on course to offset the power of the Majles (parliament), which is dominated by radicals.

"I warn that our nation should be vigilant about a dangerous political faction which is now determined to pacify the Majles, as they cannot officially dissolve it," said radical MP [Member of Parliament] Mohammad Asgharzadeh.

Observers believe that the major task of the assembly will be to provide legitimacy for Khamene'i's decrees on social, political, and economic matters by declaring him the single most important *Marja' Taqlid*, or source of imitation, for the nation.

The Islamic Revolution provided this unique position for Ayatollah Khomeyni when he put his leadership stamp on the movement which overthrew Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

Traditionally, Shia Iranians follow one of the few *Marja's* out of their own free choice. A *Marja'* in return represents his local population and the powerful merchant classes in his realm of influence.

Khamene'i lacks the credentials of these *Marja's* in terms of age and theological studies, but his association with Ayatollah Khomeyni and his behind-the-scenes political deals with Hashemi-Rafsanjani boosted his status and won him election as Iran's spiritual leader in June 1989.

"They are creating another Imam Khomeyni without the right ingredients," said one critic.

In recent weeks, senior Iranian leaders among the moderates have indicated that the only effective measure to end factional quarrels within the regime is to seek Khamene'i's view as the arbiter and the ultimate source of reference on national issues.

Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the Iranian judiciary, warned that "from now on, anyone found guilty of insulting our leader or disobeying his orders, will be subject to prosecution and severe punishment."

Khamene'i already is regarded by his supporters as the *Vali-ye Faqih*, guardian of the estate, but his authority is mainly based on his vacillating political role.

Analysts say that any attempt to promote him to a position where his directives should be read as the "words of God" would cause serious opposition from traditionalists as well as the theological colleges, whose students generally oppose Khamene'i.

"It will set a precedent which will turn the centuries-old Shia traditions upside down, and have catastrophic consequences for Islamic values and beliefs of the Iranians as well as the Islamic world," said an editorial in the weekly KEYHAN of London.

The dilemma facing the Iranian regime is rooted in the fact it has reached a stage where a clergy-dominated leadership can no longer govern by prescribing religious decrees on the secular problems besetting the country.

However, with a weak Majles, an assembly acting as a rubber stamp for the moderates, and Khamene'i's approval behind them, it is Hashemi-Rafsanjani's administration which will reap the benefits of a permanent shift of power in favor of the pragmatists.

Their position has already been further strengthened because of the Gulf crisis. Despite a call by radicals for indirect backing of President Saddam Husayn's regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani has publicly declared his support for the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

"The presence of the Western forces in the Gulf is a response to the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqis. Once this occupation is over, we wish to see a withdrawal of these forces from the region," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani in an interview with the French daily LE MONDE.

Iran's pro-West foreign policy in the Gulf crisis has been welcomed by Washington and the European Community, leading to a reopening of embassies in Tehran and London and lifting of a ban on the purchase of Iranian oil by EC members.

In another important development, preliminary talks have taken place between Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and some of the Gulf states on creation of a multi-national military force to secure stability in the Gulf once the crisis is over.

Despite eight years of war with Iraq, Iran remains one of the regions most powerful military nations; analysts say that Tehran's participation in a security pact is essential for the idea to become a reality.

"The so-called moderates in the Iranian leadership have been fishing in the muddy waters of the Gulf ever since this crisis started," said an Arab diplomat in London.

However, the crucial question for the moderates remains whether they or the opposition factions would have the backing of the armed forces if Iran's current political quarrels turn into violent confrontations.

Dawn-Compass Feature

***Majles Approves Penalties for 'Economic Saboteurs'**

91AS0286E London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] In a recent session, the Majles reconsidered and enacted again the Penalties for Economic Saboteurs Law, which had been rejected by the Council of Guardians. Article One of this law provides that commission of any of the acts mentioned in the following paragraphs will be considered a crime and the perpetrator will be sentenced to the penalties provided in this law.

A. Violation in the nation's monetary or foreign exchange system through the wholesale smuggling of foreign exchange, counterfeiting coins or currency notes, or importing or distributing them in wholesale quantities, whether domestically or abroad, and similar acts.

B. Violation in the distribution of public necessities by charging excessive prices for food or other public needs, wholesale hoarding of food or the aforementioned needs, and quantity speculative buying of agricultural products and other products needed by the public, and similar acts intended to create a monopoly or a shortage of supply.

C. Violation in the nation's distribution system in major abuses through the unauthorized sale of technical equipment and raw materials on the free market or the violation of pertinent commitments, accepting or paying large wholesale bribes in production or taking production authorizations in cases where it undermines the nation's production policies, and similar acts.

D. Any act aimed at exporting cultural heirlooms or national wealth, even if it does not lead to their export, will be seen as smuggling, and all assets intended to be used for the export will be treated as the property of the smuggler and confiscated for the government.

E. The acceptance of funds as deposits by legal or real persons acting as limited partners and the like, which leads to the plunder of public assets or violation in the economic system.

F. Acts by a group or an organization to violate the nation's export system in any way, including fraud in

depositing or paying foreign exchange contracts and fraud in the pricing of export goods.

A note appended to the above article says: To decide what constitutes wholesale, excessive, and large quantities in the instances mentioned in each of the above paragraphs, in addition to taking into consideration the extent of the losses caused, and the sums abused, and other effects of the corruption, as needed, the judge may seek the views of the appropriate authorities.

***Government Organizations Lead in Price Increases**

91AS0259G London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic Telephone Company has raised the telephone installation fee in Tehran from 42,000 toman to 117,000 toman and the amount of the telephone deposit from 10,000 toman to 50,000 toman. The increase in the price of telephone services, which has gone up along with that of many government services including transportation, industry, water, and electricity, health care and treatment, and education and training, while increasing the rate of inflation and aggravating the economic problems of the people, has also led to protests by some newspapers affiliated with the regime. According to reports from Tehran, in its meeting in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September], the Islamic Republic Economic Council approved a proposal increasing the urban telephone connect charge to five rials per three minutes, and in addition it authorized the telephone company to add one rial to the current connect charge each year, in view of comprehensive studies over a period of five years. One Tehran newspaper, reporting on the new increased rates for telephone installation and telephone connect charges by the Islamic Republic Economic Council, announced that the telephone company, contrary to what was enacted by this council, which prohibited collecting more than 100,000 toman for installation, deposit, cooperative, and other costs, as in the past not only continues to collect funds under various categories, but despite the text of the measure enacted by the Islamic Republic Economic Council on telephone use, is collecting 170,000 toman from every subscriber.

The relentless increase in prices and the heavy burden of inflation caused the Tehran newspaper KEYHAN to devote an editorial in a recent issue to the high costs of government services, and raising the question, "why the race to increase prices?" It questioned the justness and reason of the policies adopted by the regime. The writer of the column "A Passing Glance" in KEYHAN writes: Price increases are now widespread. These increases are not only in the private sector. Unfortunately, they have also spread to the government sector. Listing the prices of some government services that have recently gone up sharply, the newspaper announced that, without a doubt, price increases in the country, especially the prices of government goods and services, will damage the government's economic programs to anchor inflation.

According to reports published in the press of the Islamic Republic and reports in the media affiliated with the regime, in the last few weeks, there have been significant increases in the prices of government services in the following sectors.

This summer in the education, training, and culture sector, finally, despite all the uproar in the last few months about collecting tuition for registering in the nation's government schools, a proposal was submitted to the government, which, if approved, will require a percentage of school costs to be collected from the parents of students beginning next year, and in this way, apparently collecting tuition, which is now illegal and which is being done on various pretexts, will be legalized. In addition, according to KEYHAN, in the area of higher education also this year the Free Islamic University will add a large increase to the enrollment tuition for students.

Also in the health care sector, the situation is much more unfortunate than in the other sectors.

Concerning this, KEYHAN writes: In the area of treatment, for some time we have seen overcharging by some hospitals and physicians, and unfortunately in recent days a number of physicians have increased their office call fees before the official announcement of the new rates.

In the water and electricity sector, early this year the Ministry of Energy, following the major increase in water rates, increased water and electricity delivery rates without an official announcement. The new rates on water and electricity delivery were calculated on the foundation measurements of the building, and in some cases it was twice the previous rate. The new tariff provides that the electricity delivery rate will be 11,000 toman for up to 80 square meters of foundation, 18,000 toman for up to 150 meters, 44,000 toman for 150 meters and over, and in addition a sum will be collected from applicants as "self-help." There is also talk these days in the heavy industries sector of making the goods costly from some industrial units, including the automobile manufacturing companies. The acting director of the Iran Khodrow Company recently announced at a press conference that the sale price of vehicles to qualified individuals will be based on the price of preferred and competitive foreign exchange.

KEYHAN writes in this regard: Although the acting director of the Iran Khodrow Company did not announce the new rate, it is being said that the new price to previous winners is about 300,000 toman, and for future vehicle applicants it will be doubled. Concerning the increase in the prices of urban and inter-urban transportation services, this newspaper writes: In view of the recent problems in urban transportation, especially in Tehran, the Tehran Mayor's Office and the Taxi Organization have set a taxi fare, which is higher than the former rate. Although the new rate has not yet been officially announced, and the taxis are not required to observe the new rates, in the last few days the taxi drivers have sharply increased their rates. The mini-buses have

increased their fares as they please, despite warnings from the Vahed Company. On the other hand, the proposal to increase the cost of train tickets has also been recently submitted to the Islamic Republic Supreme Economic Council.

***Electricity Cost To Rise, Blackouts To Continue**

91AS0258L London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] At the International Electricity Conference in Tehran, Engineer Zangeneh, the Islamic Republic regime's minister of energy announced that as a way of reducing the number of blackouts, the price of consumer electricity will increase during some evening hours.

At another meeting in Mashhad, the Islamic Republic regime's minister of energy gave Khorasan Province electrical engineers the good tidings that the blackouts will continue at least until the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]!

Eng. Zangeneh expressed the hope that with the use of new power plants, by the year 1373 electrical production will increase from its present 13,000 megawatts to 20,000 megawatts, and the electrical blackouts will be eliminated.

Until two years ago officials of the Islamic Republic regime used the war as their excuse for not meeting the nation's power needs, and they promised the people that the night blackouts would soon end, but now the minister of energy is giving the people the good news that they must endure blackouts for at least four more years. Moreover, it is not clear that the situation will not be even worse in four years.

***Steel Mill Plant Capacity To Be Increased**

91AS0258H London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Due to the failure to implement the agreement to make full use of the Esfahan iron foundry at the level of 1.9 million tons per year, this production unit has so far lost \$1.5 billion. The above point was made for correspondents and press representatives recently by Engineer Mahluji, the Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of mines and metals. Mahluji, who was discussing the results of his recent trip to the Soviet Union and Italy, announced that during this trip and with the talks held with Soviet officials, an agreement was reached that in the next six to seven months Russian engineers and specialists will raise the production capacity of the Esfahan Iron Foundry to 1.9 million tons. The Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of mines and metals noted that if the Soviet Union honors its commitment, in the future this plant's capacity will be increased to four million tons of steel per year. Eng. Mahluji added: The Islamic Republic of Iran uses various methods to produce aluminum in the country, one of which is the use of bauxite, but in the Soviet Union, because of the vast deposits of nepheline,

they produce aluminum from this substance. In view of the fact that nepheline deposits extend from the Soviet Union, Ahar, Azerbaijan, and central Iran, based on talks held between Iran and the Soviet Union, known nepheline deposits in the Ahar area will be used to produce aluminum. Elsewhere in his news conference, the official discussed agreements made in the area of cooperating to produce aluminum powder in Iran. He said: Guinea has the world's largest deposits of bauxite. Soviet experts have been exploring and using those deposits for the last 30 years, converting this substance to aluminum powder. In meetings with Soviet officials, arrangements were made for all three countries to cooperate in producing aluminum powder from bauxite imported from Guinea, for example at the Qeshm Island free zone.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's minister of mines and metals added: Arrangements were made for Soviet experts to come to Iran to study and determine the best area for work and investment. In this area, we thought that Guinea, the Soviet Union, Iran, and one other nation from the Persian Gulf region could cooperate and for this reason a research company could be created to study how to produce aluminum powder.

According to reports from German industrial sources, the Islamic Republic of Iran now plans to use German experts and engineers to run the steel production facilities at the Esfahan Iron Foundry. In connection with this program, early last week a delegation from the German Krupp company met with Taqi Banki, deputy minister of mines and metals for steel. This delegation, led by Dr. Krumer, this company's acting director, discussed with Dr. Banki how Krupp can participate in modernizing the Esfahan Iron Foundry and raising this complex's production capacity. The Tehran newspaper KEYHAN also writes: The Krupp company has expressed an interest in cooperating on projects to extract from the coal mines of Tabas, rock iron ore from Chadoramlu Sangan with the participation of the National Iranian Steel Company.

***New Airport Terminal at Mehrabad Operational**

91AS0258J London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] With the opening of Terminal One at Mehrabad International Airport, some international flights by the Iran National Airline and other foreign companies will be made from this terminal, and other terminals at this airport will be allocated for domestic flights as well as long flights to Western Europe. Reports from Tehran state that henceforth flights from Tehran to and from Dubayy, Kuala Lumpur, Damascus, Sharjah, Istanbul, and Larnaca will be made from the new Terminal One. Currently in one week the Iran National Airline and other airlines make a minimum of two flights to the capital of Malaysia, two flights to Sharjah, two flights to Istanbul, three flights to Damascus, one flight to Larnaca, Cyprus, and two flights to Dubayy.

In the last few weeks the Iran National Airline has increased its domestic flights after obtaining several new Fokker aircraft from Holland, and in addition to that this company intends to begin flying to the American continent. Engineer Shafti, the acting director of Homa, recently announced that the Iran National Airline's flight networks are constantly expanding and in the years to come the aircraft of this company will add to their flights to Europe and the countries of the Persian Gulf.

***Commercial Relations With Bahrain To Expand**

91AS0258K London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] As political relations between the Islamic regime of Tehran and Bahrain are about to begin at the level of ambassador, commercial sources announced that Bahrain will soon become a new transit port for the commercial export and import of Iran's products. According to the newspaper AL-AYYAM printed in Bahrain, opening a shipping line between Iran's ports on the shores of the Persian Gulf and Bahrain will pave the way for the expansion of commercial relations between the two countries, and henceforth Iranian merchants will be able to export traditional Iranian products initially to Bahrain and then send them from there to various parts of the world. The above newspaper also announced that henceforth fresh vegetables and fruits produced in Iran will be brought into the Bahrain market at a lower price. Quoting commercial sources from Bahrain, the newspaper AL-AYYAM writes: Bahraini merchants want to buy fruit, vegetables, dried fruit, livestock, food, and canned goods from Iran. The publication adds: The Bahrainis are hoping that in return for exporting its goods to that country, the Islamic Republic will buy from Bahrain many of the goods it needs, including electronic equipment, electrical supplies, and other industrial goods. The newspaper ABRAR, published in the Islamic Republic, also recently published a report on Bahrain. Quoting a Bahraini merchant, it wrote:

The establishment of a direct shipping line between the two countries will make it possible for Iran to supply Bahrain with the food it needs, which is abundant in Iran, instead of Bahrain importing it from Jordan, India, and China at high prices, in a shorter time and at lower prices. The newspaper wrote: Currently the food products, fruit, and fresh vegetables needed by Bahrain are imported from Dubayy and the other shaykhdoms of this region.

***Bulk of Argentinian Wheat Purchased**

91AS0259P London KEYHAN in Persian 15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] Special KEYHAN report from Buenos Aires—On his return to Tehran, the director of the Argentine Grain Organization told reporters that the Islamic Republic will keep the agreement it made last year with Argentina to buy grain, and this year also Argentina will export almost 2 million tons of wheat to Iran.

The Buenos Aires newspaper CLARIN, quoting the director of the Argentine Grain Organization, writes that last year 1.6 million tons of wheat was sent to Iran. Although the

Israelis and the French, because the market for grain sales in Iraq has been closed, are now selling their wheat crop to Iran at very low prices, the Islamic Republic regime is willing to pay the international spot price to Argentina.

Argentine wheat is being sent to Iran in small shipments of 30,000 tons, and the price of each shipment is paid at the spot rate.

To reach Iran, Argentina's wheat is first sent by boat to the port of Odessa, and is then shipped to the port of Baku. From there it goes to Iranian ports on the Sea of Mazandaran in 4,000-ton ships.

The Buenos Aires newspaper LA NACION also writes that the Islamic Republic's huge purchases of wheat from Argentina might be for the purpose of procuring the wheat needed by Iraq.

Quoting the manager of the Islamic Republic Grain Organization, this newspaper writes that whenever there is not a great difference between the price of Argentina's wheat and the international price, the Islamic Republic prefers to buy the wheat it needs from Argentina.

According to Argentina's grain manager, the Islamic Republic's increased income from the sale of oil has now turned Iran's market into a "sweet market" that is a center visited by international dealers.

The roster of ships anchoring at Argentina's ports to load wheat includes five Iranian freighters, the Iran 'Adl, the Irapva, the Iran "T", the Iran "S", and the Iran-e Beheshti.

***Free Operations Offered to Child-Bearing Women**

91AS0286F London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Officials of the Islamic Republic regime, who are seeking new ways to deal with the problem of the increased population, announced last week that surgery to block the fallopian tubes of women to prevent pregnancy are being performed free at eight hospitals in the cities of Tehran, Qom, Karaj, Varamin, and Damavand.

Dr. Bijan Sadri, deputy minister of health and treatment, announced that 250 million rials credit are being provided to carry out this plan. He said that religious authorization to block the fallopian tubes of women to prevent pregnancy has been obtained from the sources of emulation.

When it first came to power, the Islamic Republic regime encouraged the people, on religious grounds, to reproduce as much as possible, and the harmful results of that are now overtaking society with the unbridled increases in population.

***Caviar Sales Revenues Reach \$50 Million**

91AS0259N London KEYHAN in Persian
15 Nov 90 p 4

[Text] By exporting significant quantities of caviar to Europe and America, the Iran Fisheries Company earned \$50 million in foreign exchange during the year 1368 [21

March 1989-20 March 1990]. Most of this Iranian caviar was exported to Switzerland by an international company and then transferred from there to other countries. In addition to earning significant foreign exchange income by exporting caviar, the Iran Fisheries Company also now adds appropriate foreign exchange income to the treasury through the sale of shrimp at sea to foreign purchasing ships. Rasul Lahijaniyan, deputy minister of the reconstruction jihad and acting manager of fisheries, recently announced that with the implementation of the new fisheries program, Iran's shrimp export capacity has increased up to 100 percent. The official said: This year the fisheries have implemented an extensive program to process and package shrimp at sea, and based on this program, in Bushehr 80 industrial fishing ships and 500 launches are fishing for shrimp and in Hormozgan there are 160 launches, and 10 industrial fishing ships.

The Islamic Republic's deputy minister of the reconstruction jihad recently went to Europe at the head of a delegation whose membership also included experts on fishing and several Majles deputies to look for markets for fish and caviar in Germany, Norway, and Japan, and to discuss with the appropriate officials signing a contract for these countries to build ships.

Pakistan

Paper Criticizes U.S. Attitude on Iraq

BK1212140590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
12 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Drops the Fig Leaf"]

[Text] While there may not be any heroes in the saga of madness now being enacted in the Middle East which could lead to perhaps the worst human tragedy history has ever known, it would be unfair not to concede the success of Mr Saddam Husayn's dexterity in making the United States come out publicly with a confession of the worst motives attributed to it with regard to the Gulf adventure. Two top officials of the Bush administration, Secretary of State James Baker and the President's National Security Adviser General Brent Scowcroft, have felt so hopelessly pushed against the wall by the shrewd Iraqi dictator's manipulative skill, as to declare that neither Baghdad's vacation of Kuwait nor for that matter Mr Saddam Husayn's compliance with the deluge of UN Security Council Resolutions on the issue would lead to US troops withdrawal from the region. Nor even is the physical removal of what has been portrayed by no less a person than the US President himself, as the 'Hitler' of the time, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, an objective stated to be sufficient to ensure regional stability. It is nothing short of the annihilation of Iraq's formidable war machine, including its chemical and "potential" nuclear arsenal, which would satisfy Washington.

This fact in itself would hardly come as a surprise to those perceptive observers of the Gulf scene who had all along since the despatch of American troops to the

region some four months ago, ascribed exactly the same motive to US role in the situation. There have also been credible reports emanating from reliable US sources to suggest that Mr. Saddam Husayn may actually have been encouraged, albeit tacitly, by Washington to pounce upon Kuwait so as to provide the United States with a pretext to go to the region in a big way with the specific intent of destroying Iraq's military might. What is, nevertheless, remarkable in the present context is the emperor's own confession that he is wearing no clothes—not that the nakedness of American designs had been any less stark to the rest of the world. But the fact that two of the most responsible US administration personnel have felt compelled at this stage to drop the fig leaf of specious legitimacy acquired by Washington through considerable effort at the UN Security Council and in various world capitals indicates the extent of America's desperation at being repeatedly checkmated by Baghdad.

The irony for the United States, however, is that even this no-holds-barred statement of intent on its part would anything but advance the prospects of achieving the same objective. Perhaps in an unwitting manner, the Baker-Scowcroft outburst has brought out the rationale for American leadership's description of President Saddam Husayn as the contemporary Hitler. It is not just the "madman" in Baghdad who is quite understandably perceived to be a threat to America's global and regional interests, but also the method in his 'madness' which has struck a raw nerve of defiance against Western imperialism and its local lackeys among the Muslim masses. The "evil" of the nascent, Muslim assertiveness must, therefore, be nipped in the bud. So far, so good. But the fatal miscalculation which Washington is making in this case is its underrating, if not discounting, of the element of human resilience which America's own actions have been activating with regard to feelings Muslims hold dearer than life. It is unlikely that US policy-makers and strategists would appreciate the point, but chances are that the clear identification made by the United States of Iraq's military potential as the prime target of American buildup in the region would go a long way in underwriting Iraq's chances of survival in the ultimate analysis—rather, the final ascendancy at all costs of what the power of the Muslim state of Iraq has come to represent for the adherents of Islam in all parts of the world.

The recent turn of events should also clarify, if there ever was a need for such an illustrating, the larger perspective of America's duplicity in dealing with the dreadful bomb. Even as Iraq's supposed propensities which may at a future date lead to its developing a nuclear device, have already qualified it to be subjected to American onslaught, the possession of a nuclear arsenal by the Zionist entity in the same neighbourhood is anything but a cause of concern to Washington. The same applies to South Asia. Whereas a bomb with India qualifies it to be treated by Washington as the regional influential, America would explain its aid cut-off to Pakistan at the current juncture in terms of the latter's mere possession of components which can be used to assemble a nuclear device. But, mercifully, US double standards are not

lost to many in the vortex of the Middle East history in the making. Only days before Washington declared its intent of destroying Iraq's military might, the Chief of Army Staff in Pakistan as also the chief of the Revolutionary Guard in Iran had already underlined how important it was for Iraq's military machine to be preserved. The two apparently unrelated utterances from Wah and Tehran had the same underlying logic to advance: If the power of Iraq could be destroyed today, it could well be the turn of Iran and of Pakistan tomorrow. But, thanks to none but the US itself, it is not just the power managers but also the masses in various Muslim societies who stand alerted to their stakes in the today of the Middle East. That is the best guarantee against a possible action replay with regard to any other Muslim power tomorrow.

Spokesman Urges India To Stop Violence

*BK1212154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] Pakistan has called upon India to take effective steps to check communal disturbances and to protect the lives and properties of Muslims and their places of worship in that country. A Foreign Office spokesman commenting on the report of widespread arson and looting of properties of Muslims in various parts of India said that this is a matter of concern not only for the Indian Muslims but for the entire Islamic world as well. The spokesman expressed Pakistan's grave concern over the fresh attempts by radicals in India to demolish the historic Babri Mosque and to construct a temple at the mosque site. The spokesman said that the communal riots in India is also a matter of concern in which hundreds of Indian Muslims have been killed.

In reply to a question on the upcoming talks between India and Pakistan, the spokesman said that all bilateral matters, including Kashmir and border tension, will be discussed at the talks. The spokesman said that the talks will be held on the 18th and 19th of this month as scheduled. He said that Pakistan's stand is that troops should be withdrawn to the peacetime positions in order to reduce tension.

Spokesman Reaffirms Stand on Nuclear Issue

*BK1212150290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Oakley, will hold talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad tomorrow on the Pressler Amendment, on the certification by President Bush about Pakistan's nuclear program, and the cutoff of U.S. aid to Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad that during the talks Pakistan will reaffirm its position on the nuclear issue; that it is aimed at the peaceful use of nuclear technology and is based on the same ground that had led to the certification by U.S. presidents until this year. Pakistan's nuclear program is not weapon-oriented. The spokesman said Pakistan considers that singling out this

country and taking steps against it on the nuclear issue is highly discriminatory, adding that the issue should be given a regional approach.

President Receives Japanese Economic Team

*BK1212164290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 12 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has called upon foreign entrepreneurs to invest in Pakistan in a big way. He was talking to the leader of a high-level Japanese delegation, Mr. Toshiaki Muto, in Islamabad today. The delegation is currently in Pakistan to discuss medium- and long-term assistance to Pakistan. The president said the shift toward deregulation and privatization and the additional incentive recently offered by the new government to the private sector had created a healthy investment climate in Pakistan. He briefed the Japanese delegation on the adverse impact of the Gulf crisis on Pakistan's economy and expressed the hope that Japan will help Pakistan in overcoming the resultant economic difficulty. [passage omitted]

Attack Police Foil Bid To Smuggle Heroin

*BK1212135190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
12 Dec 90 p 8*

[Text] Attack Dec. 11—Attack police has foiled a bid to smuggle one kilogram quality heroin worth lakhs of rupees from NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] to Punjab and has also netted three nationals of Nairobi city (Kenya).

The Superintendent Police Attack Nasir Khan Durrani told the newsmen that on a tip-off, a Rawalpindi bound flying coach coming from Kohat was intercepted at police check Khushal Garh some 90 km from here and during the search heroin was recovered from the possession of the accused who has concealed it in the large size capsules. Accused Michal Razay and Muhammad Saleem were arrested on the spot while their accomplice was nabbed from a Rawalpindi hotel. Police sources claim that all the accused belong to an international gang of drug traffickers. Further investigation is in progress.

Mujahidin Reportedly Attack Palace in Kabul

*BK1212135390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 12 Dec 90 pp 1, 12*

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 11—According to a report of the Jan Dullah Front in Paghman, west of Kabul, the Mujahidin under popular Commander Mohammad Belal Nairam, targetted the presidential place of Kabul with Saccar-20 long-range missiles, on Dec. 10. No immediate report on the casualties have yet been reported.

The presidential palace of the communist leader of Kabul, has been hit several times by the Mujahidin forces, entrenched around Kabul as well as outskirts of the capital, in the past.

The same report added that in a separate artillery attack of the Mujahidin on the communists in the Bagh-i-Daud,

lying in the neighbourhood of Paghman, destroying several BM-41 multi-barrel rocket launchers; on Dec. 8. [sentence as published]

Also an ammunition storage dump and a number of military barracks were destroyed in the attack. Thick smoke have been shot [as published] from this place for many hours.

Meanwhile, the Mujahidin attacked the besieged city of Qalat, the capital of Zabol province, with heavy machine-guns, on Dec. 4, as a result, seven communist regime's soldiers and militiamen were captured and a huge quantity of ammunition and foodstuff was also fallen to the hands of the Mujahidin, according to Commander Abdul Khaliq.

About 30 regime soldiers while camouflaging and intending to gain the sacks of ammunition and foodstuff, were suddenly attacked by the Mujahidin, capturing seven armed militiamen and soldiers, injuring a number of others and forcing the rest to chase back and remain restrict into their positions, the report added.—MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN]

Hikmatyar Asks Najibullah To Surrender

BK0912121990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 7.—The Chief of Hezb-e Islami Afghanistan [HEA], Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has asked the Kabul ruler, Dr. Najibullah to surrender to Mujahidin before the final lash is struck on him, reports Afghan News Agency. He said that the offer of general amnesty is still open for Najibullah if he steps down before Mujahidin and repents over his past misdeeds.

In a statement issued from inside Afghanistan Hikmatyar said that this is the final chance for Najib and if he does not bow down before Mujahidin no one could save him from the wrath of Afghan Mujahidin.

Mr. Hikmatyar reminded Najib that he should learn a lesson from the ex-president of Bangladesh Mr. Hussain Mohammad Ershad who resigned after the protest processions of the general public. He commended President Ershad for bowing before his people soon after the death of over a dozen of Bangladeshis. He questioned as to how did Najib claim to be an Afghan and a Muslim by prolonging his despotic rule with the help of Russian tanks even after the martyrdom of 1.5 million Afghans and 5 million others still living in refugees camps in other countries.

The HEA Amir rejected any sort of negotiations or the formation of an interim government before the resignation of Najib. He said that first of all Najib should also quit and after him an interim govt will be brought to cover the vacuum and hold elections within a specified period. He ruled out the possibility of any talks with the Communist Party even after the surrender of Najib by adding that the 12-year oppression of the Communist Party was too much for the Afghan nation. He said that all the parties excluding the ruling Communist Party will

jointly ponder over inducting on interim government which will hand over power to an elected government soon after holding general elections in Afghanistan.

He said that Mujahidin will never betray its people by sharing power with Najib or the Communist Party and who over does so he will be a national traitor and taken on equal footings with Najib.

Mujahidin Said Scoring Successes in Offensive

BK1112142790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Dec 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar Dec 10.—The offensive of Afghan Mujahidin is continuing against the Kabul regime and they have scored a number of successes in Lowgar, Baghlan, Laghman, Samangan and Maidan Wardag by capturing a number of posts and inflicting severe losses to the regime forces, reports AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY.

Mujahidin commander Zubit Abbas disclosed in his wireless communication from Lowgar Province that Mujahidin unjeashed a joint attack on regime security posts in Tandoba on December 8 on the direction of the Commander-in-Chief of the current military operations against Kabul, Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and captured four military posts. They destroyed two tanks and captured one pecca machine gun, one RPG-7 rocket launcher one cannon, six Kalashnikovs and two wireless sets. Six Mujahidin sustained injuries in this operation because of mine blasts. Death toll of regime personnel could not be estimated immediately.

In Chughi area of Samangan Province Mujahidin under Commander Salam attacked regime military posts on Dec 8 and captured one military post. Five regime personnel were killed while four others injured.

Eight militiamen of the Kabul regime were captured in Pol-e-Khomri when Mujahidin attacked the militia posts in Qul-i-Qasabi on December 7. Mujahidin captured one Grenow Machine Gun, one Rocket and 8 Kalashnikovs in this operation.

In Lowgar, Mujahidin under commander Dr. Haman attacked regime positions at Qila Ahmadzal and killed 43 militiamen including a militia general of the regime. 3 militiamen ran over to Mujahidin along with their Kalashnikov rifles. Mujahidin also destroyed four tanks and one BM-41 and one BM-13 Rocket Launchers. 3 Mujahidin received injuries in this operation.

Mujahidin also captured one post in Geroz area of Koh-e-Safi when they attacked military posts of the regime in Abdara and Sarak-i-Jadeed and destroyed one tank on December 4. They also brought under missile attack the 15th division of the army.

In Maldan Shahr of Maidan Wardag Province, Mujahidin captured two posts and killed 28 militia personnel along with a Major of Khad, Noor Alam, on December 8. 3 Mujahidin embraced martyrdom while 13 others were injured. Mujahidin damaged a building of Khad office and destroyed a BM-13 rocket launcher in this attack.